On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, February 3, 2015



Groundhog Club handler Ron Ploucha, left, holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 129th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. Phil's handlers said that the groundhog has forecast six more weeks of winter weather. The annual tradition follows a German legend that says if a furry rodent sees his shadow on Feb. 2, winter will last another six weeks. If not, spring comes early.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

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Obama sends record \$4 trillion budget to US Congress

MARTIN CRUTSINGER **AP Economics Writer** WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama set up another clash with Republicans by sending Congress a \$4 trillion budget Monday that seeks to raise taxes on wealthier Americans and corporations and increase

domestic spending.

In a message accompanying the massive budget books, Obama said his proposals are "practical, not partisan." But even before the books were delivered, Republicans found plenty to criticize in tax hikes totaling \$2 trillion.

"The president is advocating more spending, more taxes and more debt," said House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner. "A proposal that never balances is not a serious plan for America's fiscal future." The annual budget proposals are more like wish lists than initiatives soon to become law. Congress is now fully controlled by Republicans who oppose Obama's proposals. And the budget resolutions eventually approved by Congress would be nonbinding.

But budgets influence the spending bills that determine how much Americans will be taxed and how government programs will be funded.

Obama's proposal Monday puts into relief the divisions in Washington. Obama maintains that the U.S. economy has improved enough to raise some taxes and increase spending to help Americans who haven't benefited from the re-Republicans covery. say Obama's proposals would threaten the recovery and the focus should be on eliminating the budget deficit.

likely to be the core of the political debate during the final two years ful, automatic cuts to the Obama'spresidency and could carry over into the 2016 race to elect Obama's successor. Boehner and other Republican leaders said that the budget they produce this

within 10 years, curb the explosive growth of government benefit programs and reform the loopholecluttered tax code.

In a lengthy run-up to Monday's budget release, the Obama administration said its budget represented a strategy to strengthen the middle class and help "hard-working families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change." The budget emphasizes the same themes as Obama's State of the Union address last month, when he challenged Congress to work with him on narrowing the income gap between the very wealthy and everyone else.

"This country's better off than it was four years ago, but what we also know is that wages and incomes for middle class families are just now ticking up," Obama said in an interview broadcast on Monday's "Today Show" on NBC. "They haven't been keeping pace over the last 30 years compared to, you know, corporate profits and what's happening to folks in the very top."

The new budget offers an array of spending programs and tax increases on the wealthy that Republican lawmakers have already rejected. But it puts Republicans in the politically awkward position of rejecting tax cuts for middle-class families.

The president also wants to give a huge boost to spending on infrastructure, funded by a one-time tax on profits U.S. companies have amassed overseas.

Obama would ease tight budget constraints imposed on the military and domestic programs back in 2011, when attempts at Those differences are a bipartisan budget deal failed. His budget will propose easing those painmilitary and domestic agencies with a 7 percent increase in annual appropriations.

> Many Republicans support the extra military spending but oppose increased do-

spring will achieve balance mestic spending. Republicans control both houses of Congress for the first time in Obama's presidency.

> Obama's fiscal blueprint, for the budget year that begins Oct. 1, would leave a deficit of \$474 billion. Obama'sbudget plan never reaches balance over the next decade and projects the deficit would rise to \$687 billion in 2025.

> The administration contends that various spending cuts and tax increases would trim the deficits by about \$1.8 trillion over the next decade, leaving the deficit at manageable levels.



President Barack Obama pauses as he delivers remarks at the Department of Homeland Security on his FY2016 budget proposal, on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015, in Washington. Obama warned congressional Republicans Monday that he won't accept a spending plan that boosts national security at the expense of domestic programs for the middle class.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



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Christie: Parents deserve measure of choice on vaccinations

JILL COLVIN **Associated Press** WASHINGTON/CAM-BRIDGE, England (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said Monday parents should have some choice on whether to vaccinate their children, a position he's taken before but one that drew a new level of attention amid a U.S. measles outbreak and his recent moves toward running for president.

The political significance of Christie's remarks was amplified by his office a short time later, when it released a statement savina the governor believes "with a disease like measles there is no question kids should be vaccinated."

Christie's stumble into the vaccine issue came as a measles outbreak centered in California has sickened more than 100 people in several states and Mexico, putting a new spotlight on parents who choose not to vaccinate their children. Some do so for religious or philosophical reasons, while others cite a concern that vaccines can lead to autism and devellink debunked by rigorous ing, normal children who His staff, too, sent out a clar-possible 2016 presiden-

medical research.

wound up with profound Christie found an ally in mental disorders after vacfellow Republican White cines," Paul, an eye doctor, House prospect, Kentucky said in a subsequent inter- lives, and should be admin-

ifying statement afterward, saving that Paul "believes that vaccines have saved

Sen. Rand Paul, who said in view while suggesting vac- istered to children. His chil-

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie looks towards the media leaves 10 Downing Street following a meeting with Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, in London Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

a Monday radio interview that most vaccines should be voluntary.

"I have heard of many tragopmental disorders — a ic cases of walking, talk-

cines were "a good thing." "But I think the parents should have some input. The state doesn't own your children."

dren were all vaccinated." Christie, a Republican who recently launched an organization that allows him to raise money for a tial campaign, was asked about the outbreak after touring a facility operated by Medlmmune, which manufacturers the flu vaccine FluMist. Christie is on a three-day trip to the United Kingdom.

He said that he and his wife had vaccinated their children, describing that decision as "the best expression I can give you of my opinion." He said they believe doing so is an "important part of making sure we protect their health and the public health."

"But," Christie added, "I also understand that parents need to have some measure of choice in things as well. So that's the balance that the government has to decide."

It's not a new position for Christie, who during his first campaign for governor in 2009 pledged to fight for greater parental involvement in vaccination decisions.

All states now require children to get certain vaccinations to enroll in school, although California and New Jersey are among 20 states that let parents opt out by obtaining a waiver. Parents in New Jersey seeking such a waiver for medical reasons must submit a written statement from their doctor or registered nurse.

The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly urges parents to get their children vaccinated against measles and other childhood diseases. The New Jersey health department's guidelines on vaccines say that objections "based on grounds which are not medical or religious in nature and which are of a philosophical, moral, secular, or more general nature continue to be unacceptable."

BREAKING: Defense nominee would reconsider Afghan plan

Associated Press

president's nominee to be the next Pentagon chief says he would consider changing the current plans troops from Afghanistan by the end of next year if se- that doesn't happen. curity conditions worsen.

Committee, Ashton Carter responded "yes" when asked if he would consider recommending changes to the current pace and the U.S. troop withdrawal

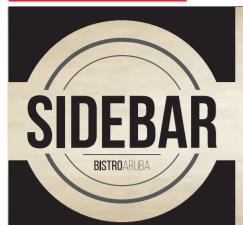
size of the drawdown plan and worry that local forces would be gone. **WASHINGTON (AP)** — The to address security concerns. He also said he is aware of reports that Islamic State militants may try to expand into Afghanistan, for withdrawing all U.S. and said he will work with coalition partners to ensure

Carter's comments were In written comments to the included in his answers to Senate Armed Services a committee questionnaire that was obtained by The Associated Press. They come as Afghan leaders express concerns about

may not be ready to secure the country on their own. Republican Sen. John Mc-Cain, chairman of the committee, has repeatedly questioned the wisdom of setting and announcing a hard end date to the U.S. presence in Afghanistan. And military commanders have told Congress that they would have preferred a "more ambiauous" withdrawal schedule that would not tell the enemy exactly when U.S. forces

The committee is scheduled to hold a hearing Wednesday to consider Carter's nomination, and while he likely will face some pointed questioning during the session, he is expected to easily get confirmed. The questionnaire provided a vivid preview of some of the more challenging subjects senators will raise, pressing him on U.S. national security strategy in hotspots around the globe.





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US-Venezuela tensions escalate over human rights, VP Biden

JOSH LEDERMAN Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP)

Fraught relations between the United States and Venezuela turned openly hostile on Monday as the U.S. slapped new visa restrictions on Venezuelan officials and their families and Venezuela's president accused Vice President Joe Biden of plotting to overthrow him.

Current and former Venezuelan officials believed to be associated with human rights abuses or corruption will be subject to the restrictions, which bars those individuals from entering the United States. In a first, the U.S. said its ban would also apply to the individuals' immediate family members, too.

The exchange of barbs undermined hopes that the U.S. and Venezuela could pursue improved ties following a rapid deterioration of relations last year. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the U.S. was showing



Vice President Joe Biden gestures while speaking to members of the House Democratic Caucus in Philadelphia, Friday Jan. 30, 2015.

United States."

Venezuela's write a letter to Obama

clearly that human rights tempt to violate Venezuviolators and their families ela's nation's sovereignty. "are not welcome in the He claimed that U.S. poli-President been kidnapped by "irre-Nicolas Maduro reacted sponsible, imperial forces angrily, saying he would that are putting the United States on a dead-end" in over what he called an at- its relations with Venezuela

(AP Photo/ Joseph Kaczmarek)

and the broader region. At the same time, the U.S. dismissed as "ludicrous" cy toward Venezuela has Maduro's recent claim that that Biden had conspired against him.

> In a televised address over weekend, Maduro claimed that Biden sought

to foment the overthrow of his socialist government during a Caribbean energy summit Biden hosted last month in Washington. According to Maduro, Biden told Caribbean heads of state that the Venezuelan government's days were numbered and it was time they abandon their support.

"What Vice President Jose Biden did is unspeakable," Maduro said.

"Vice President Biden: Look me in the eyes. I saw you in Brazil, I gave you my hand. You, who said this is a new era for relations in Latin America, were going to conspire against Venezuela."

During the public portion of the energy summit, Biden never mentioned Venezuela in his remarks. It was unclear what Biden might have said to foreign leaders at the summit behind closed doors, but the vice president's office said Maduro's description of Biden's comments were "patently false."



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Former rap mogul Suge Knight charged with murder

TAMI ABDOLLAH Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former hip-hop music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was charged Monday with murder and attempted murder after he struck two men with his pickup truck last week.

Prosecutors allege that Knight intended to run down a friend and another man after an argument on a movie set. One of the men was killed.

Attorney James Blatt says Knight accidentally ran over the men on Thursday as he tried to escape a vicious attack. He turned himself in to police on Friday.

Knight's initial bail of \$2 million was revoked Monday after a court commissioner

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he was a potential flight risk and could intimidate witnesses.

The ruling came after detectives told the bail commissioner that the 49-year-

agreed with authorities that old founder of Death Row Records could face a lengthy prison sentence because of a violent criminal past and had the potential to intimidate witnesses, Los Angeles County

Death Row Records founder Marion "Suge" Knight, right, walks into the Los Angeles County Sheriffs department in the early morning in connection with a hit-and-run incident. Knight was charged Monday with murder and attempted murder after he struck the two men with his pickup truck last week.

(AP Photo/AP Television,)

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sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said.

Knight is scheduled to appear in court in Compton on Tuesday to be arraigned on four felony counts, which include murder in the death of 55-yearold Terry Carter, "attempted, willful, deliberate, and premeditated murder" involving victim 51-year-old Cle "Bone" Sloan, plus two charges of hit-and-run.

Knight was out on bail in a separate robbery case when the men were hit.

Knight was at the center of one of the most notorious rap conflicts of the 1990s, pitting Tupac Shakur against Biggie Smalls in an East Coast-West Coast ri-

Knight was sent to prison for nearly five years for badly beating a rival with Shakur at a Las Vegas hotel, just hours before Shakur was fatally shot while riding in Knight's car just east of the

In the current case, Knight struck two men with his pickup truck in a Compton burger stand parking lot. The collision killed his friend, Carter, a founder and owner of Heavyweight Records who was viewed as a local father figure and tried to help mentor young men in the community, said Doug Young, a friend and hiphop music promoter.



US inmate with more than 2 decades on death row freed

RANDALL CHASE Associated Press DOVER, Delaware (AP) - \wedge

man who spent more than two decades on Delaware's death row has been set free, for now, as prosecutors appeal a judge's ruling that they cannot use a coerced confession he gave to police while high on heroin.

Jermaine Wright, 42, walked out of a maximumsecurity prison and into the arms of his mother, Delores, on Friday, 24 years to the day that he was taken into custody following the 1991 killing of a liquor store clerk in Delaware.

"It was an emotional reunion with his family. It was quite a day," said Herb Mondros, one of Wright's defense attorneys.

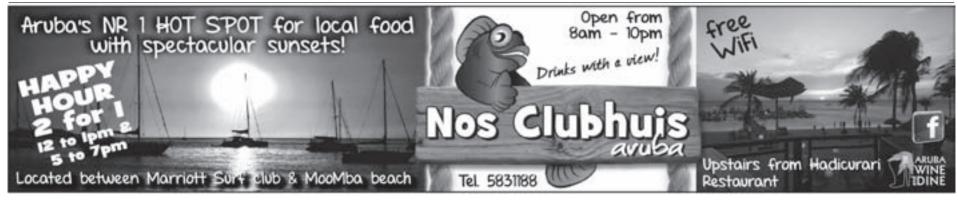
Prosecutors promptly moved to dismiss the charges against Wright last week in a procedural requirement that clears the way for an appeal to the

Delaware Supreme Court of the suppression ruling by Superior Court Judge John A. Parkins Jr. If their appeal is successful, prosecutors will seek to refile the charges against Wright.

Wright was sentenced to death for the murder of Phillip Seifert, 66, at a liquor store and bar on Jan. 14,

In overturning Wright's conviction and death sentence, Parkins ruled in 2012 that a confession Wright gave to police during an interrogation lasting nearly 13 hours was defective because he had not been properly advised of his rights against self-incrimination and to have an attorney appointed for him. The confession was a linchpin for prosecutors at Wright's 1992 murder trial, and Deputy Attorney General Steve Wood has said it's unlikely that prosecutors would proceed with the case without the confession.





US Financial Front:

American construction spending rose 0.4% in December

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.
construction spending
accelerated in December as building activity increased for new
houses and government-backed highways.

The Commerce Department said Monday that construction spending rose 0.4 percent in December. Total construction spending in 2014 increased 5.6 percent to \$961 billion, with the gains slightly below the pace of 5.7 percent in 2013.

Spending on single-family houses rose 1.2 percent in December from the prior month. Highway and street construction grew by 2.1 percent and factory-building by 1.9 percent. Construction of schools and commercial centers fell in December. The gains were strong enough that Michael Gapen, an analyst at the bank Barclays, said that the economy likely expanded at an annual pace of 2.8 percent in the final three months of last year, compared to the 2.6 percent estimate reported by the government last week.

spending on offices, power plants, factories and lodgings climbed significantly, potentially signaling broader economic growth in 2015 that could further boost residential construction. Sales of new home sales climbed 11.6 percent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual

rate of 481,000, the Com-

merce Department said

in a recent report. That

represents a marked im-

provement from the to-

Over the course of 2014,



A worker balances himself while working on the framing of a house under construction in Coppell, Texas. The Commerce Department reported on December U.S. construction spending, on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

tal sales of 435,000 for all of 2014. Solid job growth should spillover into construction. Employers added nearly 3 million jobs in 2014, the most since 1999. Economists surveyed by FactSet ahead of Friday's jobs report say that employers likely added 230,000 jobs in January. The strong hiring should lead to additional demand for hotels and office buildings, according to the American Institute of Architects' forecast for 2015. The trade group expects that construction spending will increase 7.7 percent this year on non-residential buildings, led primarily by new offices, hotels, factories and retail development projects.

US factories grew last month at decelerated pace

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — US
factories expanded last
month at the slowest pace
in a year, as orders, production, and hiring all declined. The figures suggested manufacturing may not
add much to growth in the
first few months of 2015.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Monday that its manufacturing index fell to 53.5 in January from 55.1 in December. That is the third straight drop and lowest since January 2014. Still, any reading above 50 signals expansion.

Manufacturing helped accelerate economic growth last year as Americans bought more cars and businessesspent more on industrial machinery and equipment. But slower overseas growth and cutbacks in businessinvest-

ment in oil and gas drilling equipment are weighing on factory output. A labor dispute at West Coast ports is also disrupting supply chains for many industries.

New orders grew last month, but at the slowest pace in a year, the survey found. That suggests manufacturing growth will remain modest. Factories added jobs, but at the weakest pace since June. That's a negative sign for this week's jobs report, which will be released Friday.

Still, economists weren't overly concerned by the report. Most said it is consistent with steady growth in the first quarter.

"This decline is no reason to panic," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, in a note to clients. The report probably reflects the impact of the stronger dollar on large U.S. manufacturers that export many of their goods, he said. It does not capture the services firms, like retailers, that are benefiting from cheaper gas, which has lifted Americans' spending power, Ashworth added.

Bradley Holcomb, chairman of the ISM's manufacturing survey committee, said that cheaper oil is benefiting many manufacturers by cutting their energy costs.

A measure of the prices factories paid for raw materials, including oil and oil-based goods such as plastics, fell to the lowest level in more than five years.

Still, factories face several headwinds. In addition to slower overseas growth, the dollar has risen steadily in value as the U.S. economy's strength has attracted international investors. That makes U.S. goods more expensive overseas.

Both trends have weighed on American firms' export sales.

A measure of export orders fell last month to 49.5 from 52, the ISM's report found. China's factories remained weak last month, according to a survey of purchasing managers in that country by the bank HSBC. Activity at Chinese factories contracted for the second straight month, the survey found. The stronger dollar also lowers U.S. multinational corporations' overseas profits. Last week, Procter & Gamble, DuPont and Caterpillar all said their earnings took a hit from the strong dollar. The overseas turmoil dampened the U.S. economy in the final three months of last year. Exports rose at the slowest pace since the beginning of the year. Meanwhile, imports, which become cheaper when the dollar rises, jumped.



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American Living:

Oregon strippers lobby for better work conditions

J. J. COOPER
Associated Press
SALEM, Oregon (AP) — Any
tourist guide to Portland

tourist guide to Portland will tell you about the strip clubs.

There are dozens of them, something for any taste or any neighborhood, helped to ubiquity by Oregon's fierce protection of free speech.

Tired of watching wellmeaning strangers impose their own visions for improving the plight of the dancer, some of Portland's seasoned strippers are working directly with state lawmakers and professional lobbyists.

Around the United States, strippers have stepped up their fight for better working conditions. Some are suing. Others have filed complaints with state regulators. A handful have unionized. But the effort in Oregon to work directly with the Legislature — with the support of lobbyists — is unique.

"The hardest part about being a stripper is battling the stigma that we are victims that need help from outsiders," said Elle Stanger, a stripper who's been active in the movement. "It doesn't matter if you work in education, clergy, any kind of blue collar work — the people who do the work know what the work environment needs." Stanger has worked her entire five-year career at the Lucky Devil Lounge. She's pleased with the management, she said, and isn't concerned she'll face retaliation for speaking publicly. But as the assistant editor of Exotic Magazine,

a local publication for the sex industry, she's seen plenty of clubs. They're not all as great as hers.

"Some of the buildings are literally dilapidated and not maintained," Stanger said. "You have entertainers that could injure themselves from broken glass on the stage, poor wiring with the sound system. We just want to get these workplaces up to a minimum safety standard at least." There may be a few bad

strip clubs comply with mandatory health and safety standards — clean stages, structurally sound poles, adequate security. But that could be a tough sell in the Legislature.

More realistically, they plan to push for a mandate that clubs display a poster outlining dancers' rights with a hotline they can call to ask questions or report abuses. They want the hotline to be staffed by people with experience in the industry,



Stripper Elle Stanger poses for a photo in front of the Lucky Devil Lounge, where she performs, in Portland, Ore. Some of Portland's strippers are working with lawmakers and lobbyists in search of better working conditions. (AP Photo/Don Ryan)

apples, but most club owners take dancers' safety seriously and are appalled when strippers are mistreated, said Claude Da-Corsi, a club operator and president of the Oregon chapter of the Association of Club Executives, an industry association.

"We're here to protect and make safe environments for entertainers," DaCorsi said. "They're the reason we exist."

The dancers and lobbyists have settled on a handful of improvements they'd like to pursue.

Ideally, they want to see

not bureaucrats or law enforcement.

Strippers generally work as independent contractors rather than employees. They pay a stage fee or a portion of their earnings to the management, bartenders, bouncers, DJs and other support staff.

The contractor status means clubs don't have to pay payroll taxes or provide health insurance. It also means that dancers can't be managed like employees.

Many young women get into the business without much work experience

and are exploited, some strippers say. Not knowing their rights as independent contractors, dancers may not realize when a management demand is illegal or inappropriate, they say. The association helps keep them from being on their own.

The group, which has met about once a month with anywhere from four to 30 dancers, was convened by the Oregon chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Wanting to help people with no political representation, the group tasked two contract lobbyists with figuring out how they could contribute. "Social workers have always fought for people who want to fight for themselves," said Delmar Stone, director of the Oregon and Idaho chapter. "We're in solidarity with them in achieving human rights, basic protections, not being exploited."

Dancers warned the group not to require strippers to get licenses or make it harder for them to work as independent contractors. They like the anonymity and flexibility they have when they're truly treated as contractors.

The lobbyists brought their own news: Oregon's free speech protections, which are more robust than the federal First Amendment, severely limit the regulations that can be imposed. Rules that apply exclusively to strip clubs won't fly, so they'll have to be imposed on all "live entertainment" venues, bringing a whole host of fully clothed entertainers into the mix.

US consumer spending slips in December

JOSH BOAK Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP)

U.S. consumer spending slipped in December, as the pace of motor vehicle sales slowed and more Americans saved their money.

The Commerce Department said Monday that consumer spending fell 0.3 percent in December, compared to a 0.5 percent increase in November. Cheaper gasoline and fewer auto sales accounted for most of the decline. Energy prices tumbled 5.2 percent in December for the sixth straight monthly decline. The falling oil and gas costs caused consumer spending — before adjusting for price changes — to record the largest monthly decrease since September 2009.

Personal income rose 0.3 percent in December, aided by the steady wave of hiring over the past year. But rather than spend those gains, consumers saved 4.9 percent of their disposable income, up from 4.3 percent in November.

Despite the decrease, several indicators show that Americans are growing more comfortable about the economy and are spending money again.

"Further big real income gains and soaring confidence point to serious strength in spending," said lan Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. "(W)e would not be surprised to see gains approaching 5 percent annualized in the spring."

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Ukraine troops fight to avoid being surrounded by rebels

PETER LEONARD Associated Press DEBALTSEVE, Ukraine (AP)

 As Ukrainian troops fought Monday to defend a strategic railway hub, Russian-backed separatists pledged to boost the size of their force and Washington pondered whether to expand its assistance to Ukraine to include lethal aid.

President Barack Obama has so far opposed sending lethal assistance, but an upsurge in fighting in eastern Ukraine has spurred the White House to take a fresh look at supplying Ukraine with such aid, a senior administration official said.

Since the unrest in eastern Ukraine surged anew in early January, the separatists have made notable strides in clawing territory away from the government in Kiev. Their main offensive is now directed at Debaltseve — a government-held railway junction once populated by 25,000 people that lies between the rebel-held cities of Luhansk and Donetsk.

Almost 2,000 residents have fled in the last few days alone.

Rebel forces have mounted multiple assaults on government positions in Debaltseve but all were repelled, a spokesman for Ukrainian military operations in the east, Andriv Lysenko, said Monday.

"The units that have arrived in support of our troops in Debaltseve are counterattacking and denying the enemy the opportunity to complete the encirclement," he said.

Separatist fighters burst through Ukrainian lines last week in the village of Vuhlehirsk on the road west of Debaltseve, getting access to a ridge overlooking the highway running north



Volunteers of the Aidar battalion picket in front of the Ministry of Defense as they protest against a decision to change the leadership of the battalion in Kiev, Ukraine, Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. The Aidar battalion, a volunteer force, and the Defense Minister have agreed that the battalion will be divided into two units. Both of them - one headed by the old leader - will be incorporated into the Defense Ministry and will continue fighting in the country's east against pro-Russian separatists.

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

from the town.

On Monday, Associated Press reporters saw Ukrainian tanks shooting from open fields at the tree line on that ridge. Minutes later,

the tanks rolled back onto the highway, leaving a heavy trail of mud in their wake, and taking up new field positions a few hundred meters (yards) away.

In a coordinated defensive maneuver, Ukrainian forces fired barrages from Grad multiple-rocket launchers toward the same area. Despite the government's retain control of Debaltseve, rows of trenches near a bridge 15 kilometers (9 miles) to the north suggested a backup plan in case the town falls. Elsewhere, the rebel strong-

insistence that it intends to

hold of Donetsk came under heavy, sustained shelling once again. City authorities said Monday 15 civilians had been killed over the weekend in the fighting, while Ukraine authorities said five soldiers had been killed and 29 wounded overall in the east in the past day alone.It's not clear how many fighters the rebels have now or how many able-bodied men are still available in rebel areas. Zakharchenko didn't say where he aimed to find apparently tens of thousands of troops.

Russia has acknowledged that some of its citizens are fighting among the rebels as volunteers, but rejects the Ukrainian and Western charge that it's backing the insurgency with troops and weapons.

EU Parliament evacuated, man in camouflage arrested

LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian police evacuated hundreds of people Monday from the European Parliament to search a car for explosives, then arrested the owner — a man clad in camouflage gear who had a gun and a chainsaw stashed in his vehicle.

European Parliament administrative buildings and its visitors' center in central Brussels were cleared as a precautionary measure while the car was searched, the assembly said in a statement.

Police found the firearm Police gave the all-clear

and chainsaw but no explosives, according to the public prosecutor's office. The suspect, identified as

a Slovak national born in 1982, was charged with "threatening an attack, possession of an illegal weapon and unauthorized possession of a firearm requiring a license."

The man "said that he wanted to meet the president of the parliament," a prosecutor's office statement said.

Parliament spokesman Jaume Duch Guillot said about 500 people were evacuated from the buildings.

time, and staff returned to their offices.

The suspect, who showed no signs of aggression throughout, declined to explain his behavior to police. Belgium has been on high alert since the Jan. 7-9 Paris terror attacks and a series of police raids on suspected foreign fighters in Belgium and France last month. Soldiers now patrol major public buildings like the EU institutions.

The incident was one of three that mobilized police and blocked traffic in Brussels Monday.

just before 1 p.m. Brussels In a separate alert, police detained a man who had been taking photos of the Brussels prosecutor's offices with his mobile phone and searched his van with an explosives sniffing dog.

> Soldiers stationed at the building alerted police after the man fled when they tried to question him. He was later released without charge.

> Belgian media also reported that police were called when a car was abandoned in a street near the U.S. embassy in Brussels, but the incident turned out to be a false alarm.



UK chief: Greek crisis risk to world economy

DANICA KIRKA M. HADJICOSTIS **Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Treasury chief warned that the standoff between Greece and the eurozone over the country's bailout is endangering the global economy, urging the new government in Athens to act responsibly.

George Osborne characterized his talks with Greece's new Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis on Monday as "constructive," but cautioned that now was the time to "choose competence over chaos." He urged the eurozone countries to come up with a better plan for jobs and growth in Greece.

"It's clear that the standoff between Greece and the eurozone is fast becoming the biggest risk to the global economy, and it's a rising threat to our economy at home," Osborne said.

Greece's radical left Syriza party won parliamentary elections last week, alarming investors and eurozone governments.

Party leader and new Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has said he wants to end years of budget austerity that eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund had required in



British Finance Minister George Osborne, left, and Greece's new finance minister Yanis Varoufakis pose for the media before their meeting at 11 Downing Street in London, Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. France's Socialist government offered support Sunday for Greece's efforts to renegotiate debt for its huge bailout plan, amid renewed fears about Europe's economic stability. The backing was a victory for Varoufakis, striking a more conciliatory tone as he seeks new conditions on debt from creditors who rescued Greece's economy to save the shared euro currency.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

exchange for 240 billioneuro (\$270 billion) in rescue loans. He also wants to renegotiate payment of the bailout debt.

Greece's finance minister will meet with investors and fund managers in London on Monday as he continues his tour of European capitals to drum up support for his government's demands.

the euro, Varoufakis sought to build rapport with Osborne with face-to-face

Downing Street described Britain's position is one of continuity — and that Greece should honor the terms of its bailout.

Tsipras struck a more conciliatory tone, meanwhile. He dismissed what he called scaremongering over his Though Britain is not part of government's position on bailout negotiations and said that while the Greek people expect him to carry out tough negotiations with eurozone creditors, that would happen "within a European framework."

Tsipras said he was surprised many "powerful European forces" back his government's call to focus policies on economic growth and not just debt reduction.

"Europe needs to take a

China executes 2 for woman's beating death

© 2015 New York Times **BEIJING** - A Chinese court announced Monday that two members of a banned religious sect had been executed for beating a woman to death at a McDonald's restaurant in May, an episode that was caught by a cellphone camera and incited outrage across China. The court, the Yantai Intermediate People's Court in the eastern province of Shandong, reported the executions of Zhang Lidong and his daughter Zhang Fan in a statement on its official social media account, noting that the two had "committed murder and used a cult to intentionally break the law." The court did not say when the executions took place. The Zhangs were members of the Church of Almighty God, a Christian sect that the Chinese government outlawed in 1995 and has labeled an "evil cult." They had entered the McDonald's with other members of their church, hoping to recruit followers on the evening of May 28 in the city of Zhaoyuan. At the restaurant, they encountered the victim, Wu Shuoyan, 35, who was waiting for her husband and young son, state television reported during the Zhangs' trial in August. After Wu twice declined to give her phone number, the group identified her as an "evil spirit" and attacked her with a chair, mops and a storm of kicks that left her dead in a pool of blood on the floor. "I beat her with all my might and stomped on her, too," said an unrepentant Zhang in an interview from prison that aired on state television. "She was a demon. We had to destroy her." The killing was recorded on a cellphone by one of several bystanders who watched the attack but did not intervene. Posted and shared widely online, the video set off a debate about the lack of help from

witnesses as well as accu-

sations that the police had

been slow to respond.

Experts scoff at Russian plans to help economy

NEIL MacFARQUHAR © 2015 New York Times

MOSCOW - With oil prices down more than 50 percent in the past year and still falling, the ruble having lost more than half its value, a recession looming and the country already dipping into its rainy-day funds, the Russian economy is in a race against time. But one would be hard pressed to grasp the depth of the troubles from the Kremlin's prescriptions.

After Anton Silvanov, the finance minister, laid out the ness owners, economists government's long-promised "anti-crisis" package in a live broadcast on state television last week, economists unanimously dismissed as inadequate his the last time it faced a prelaundry list of half-measures cipitous decline in oil prices and a vague promise of a - with disaster manage-

10 percent budget cut. "That plan is nonsense," the

Russian oligarch Alexander Y. Lebedev said in an interview, describing it as throwing away money to rescue some of Russia's worst companies. "Lots of words and little specific."

President Vladimir Putin weighed in briefly, repeating that along with keeping tight control over government finances, "We need to change our economy's structure."

Yet a wide array of busiand former senior government officials said in interviews that they expected the Kremlin to react to the crisis the way it had in 2008,

ment, but no fundamental changes.

"They are trying to get by, manage it strategically and hope that oil prices rise, hope they can make a few adjustments and it will all go away," said Kenneth S. Rogoff, an economics professor at Harvard University. The Damoclean sword hanging over the economy is whether \$385 billion in government reserves will run dry before oil prices rise. Rogoff noted that governments habitually underestimate how fast they will go through their financial reserves when they race to bail out banks, save major state corporations and douse flames throughout an ailing economy. Measures detailed in the

plan or pledged earlier in-

clude more than \$22 billion to shore up banks and major state companies, including roughly \$8 billion from the rainy-day Russian National Wealth Fund.

The plan protected two of Putin's most important constituencies - older Russians and the security establishment. It earmarked more than \$2.7 billion to peg pensions closer to the inflation rate, which mushroomed to 11.4 percent last year and is expected to be at least as high in 2015. No cuts were announced in military spending.

The Kremlin's response combines confidence that oil prices will rebound soon with official bravado that Russians will endure any hardship, including eating less, for the motherland.



Venezuela authorities probe drug store chain amid shortages

FABIOLA SANCHEZ Associated Press CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

 Two executives for Venezuela's largest drugstore chain were being held Monday as part of an investigation by price-control authorities into illegal practices contributing to the country's chronic shortages.

A manager for the Farmatodo company said the two executives taken into custody over the weekend have not been informed by intelligence agents carrying out the interrogation what they are accused of. The manager insisted on anonymity to discuss the matter, because of a lack of authorization to talk about the case publicly.

Without naming Farmatodo, President Nicolas Maduro on Sunday blasted the owners of a major retail chain that he accused of

conspiring with opponents to wage an "economic war" against his socialist government.

He said the arrested retail executives are behind long lines and panic buying of essential goods that have plagued Venezuela in recent weeks.

Farmatodo said in a statement that its actions are transparent and that its 167 stores nationwide have been inspected numerous times in recent months by the government.

Economists and critics blame rigid price and currency controls, saying the rules make it impossible for businesses to import and produce at a profit and also encourage largescale smugaling of government-subsidized goods to nearby countries.

Several critics warned that any government takeover



A customer walks past a Farmatodo pharmacy in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. Venezuela's largest drugstore chain says it's under investigation by price-control authorities and the intelligence service, presumably on suspicion of aggravating the country's chronic shortages. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

of Farmatodo would have dire consequences for the economy.

"We're talking about end- economy, former presidening what little is left" of tial candidate Henrique private enterprise in the Capriles said on Twitter.

Mexico faces questions about missing from UN committee

C. SHERMAN **Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico has made a priority of passing laws against forced disappearances and perfecting a database to track missing people, the country's permanent representative to the U.N. in Geneva said Monday.

Mexico's delegation faced the first of two days of questions from the U.N. Committee on Enforced Disappearances, which is monitoring implementation of the 2006 International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The meeting came at a difficult time for Mexico, with the September disappearance of 43 college students at the hands of local police having captured the world's attention. Family members of some of the missing students were present as committee members asked Mexican officials about the case's investigation.

"The causes of this (the student disappearances) I believe have little to do with the institutional framework

and more to do with the temporary situation that some parts of the country find themselves in, specifically the state of Guerrero," Mexican Ambassador Jorge Lomonaco said in an interview after the meeting.

Still, he said passage of a law put forward in late November that lays out the charges and penalties for forced disappearances would be a "fundamental

According to the latest official figures, there are 23,271 people missing or not located in Mexico, of which 621 are being sought by the federal Attorney General's Office's Search Unit. The numbers were provided by the office's general prosecutor for human rights, Eliana Garcia, on Jan. 19 to a forum in the Chamber of Deputies.

According to Mexico's attorney general, the students from a rural teacher college in Ayotzinapa were detained by police in the city of Iguala and then handed over to the Guerreros Unidos gang, which

killed them, burned the re- identity of only one of the The Mexican delegation mains and disposed of the ashes in a river. DNA evidence has confirmed the

students, leaving the vic- told the U.N. committee tims' families skeptical of that the investigation is the government's account. continues.





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Bomber blows herself up after Nigeria president's rally

The Associated Press MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) —

A female suicide bomber killed herself Monday when she exploded a vehicle packed with explosives near a stadium where Nigeria's president had just held an election rally in the northeastern city of Gombe, police said. They said there were no other casualties.

The U.S. State Department, meanwhile, published a warning urging U.S. citizens not to travel to 17 of the country's 36 states "due to the risk of kidnappings, rob-

attacks." The list encompasses every state in the far north, central Plateau state and Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers in the oil-rich south.

Monday's explosion occurred about 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) from the venue, which President Goodluck Jonathan had just left, said Deputy Superintendent Fwaje Atajiri.

Two other suicide bombings in Gombe city on Sunday injured a few people but killed only the bombers, he said. A couple sharing a bicycle blew themselves and a man blew himself up at a timber market. All three bombers died, Atajiri said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility. Most suicide bombings are blamed on Boko Haram Islamic extremists who are against democracy and have vowed to disrupt the Feb. 14 elections for the president, state governors and legislators in Nigeria, Africa's richest and most populous nation.

The attacks come as the International Criminal Court

beries, and other armed up at a central traffic circle prosecutor urged participants to refrain from violence before, during and after the vote, with analysts saying the presidential contest is too close to call.

> Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she would send a team to Nigeria before the election, noting: "Experience has shown that electoral competition, when gone astray, can give rise to violence and in the worst-case scenarios, even trigger the commission of mass crimes that shock the conscience of humanity."

Front-runners are President investigation.

Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian southerner and Muslim northerner Muhammadu Buhari, a former military dictator. Some 800 people died in protests in mainly Muslim northern Niaeria after Buhari lost the last election to Jonathan in 2011.

Prosecutors at The Haguebased court already are conducting a preliminary probe into alleged war crimes committed by Boko Haram and by Nigerian security forces that could lead to a full-blown

Large-scale human Ebola vaccines testing starts in Liberia

J. PAYE-LAYLEH **Associated Press** MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)

- Large-scale human testing of two potential Ebola vaccines got under way in Liberia's capital Monday, part of a global effort to prevent a repeat of the epidemic that has now claimed nearly 9,000 lives in West Africa.

Yet even as Liberians volunteered to take part, it remains unclear whether either vaccine ultimately will work, and if so how quickly they could be mass produced. There is currently no licensed treatment for Ebola, a ghastly virus that has killed at least 60 percent of even its hospitalized victims.

The studies in Liberia are taking place after smaller tests determined that the vaccines were safe for hu-



A woman is injected by a health care worker, left, as she takes part in an Ebola virus vaccine trial, at one of the largest hospital's Redemption hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. A large-scale human trial of two potential Ebola vaccines got under way in Liberia's capital Monday, part of a global effort to prevent a repeat of the epidemic that has now claimed nearly 9,000 lives in West Africa.

(AP Photo/ Abbas Dulleh)

man use. By comparing tracting the disease. them now with a dummy Despite the vaccine study's promise, authorities must shot, scientists hope to learn whether they can combat fear and suspicion prevent people from con- that people could become rial into the body and spark

infected by taking part. Each vaccine uses a different virus to carry non-infectious Ebola genetic mate-

On Sunday in one densely populated neighborhood of Monrovia, musicians sang songs explaining the purpose and intent of the trial in a bid to dispel fears. B. Emmanuel Lansana, 43, a physician's assistant, was the first to receive doses on Monday. Two shots were administered at different points on his right arm. His wife had expressed apprehension about the vaccine trial, but Lansana said he still wanted to take part.

an immune response.

"From the counseling, all of the reservations I have were explained, my doubts were cleared," he said in a room where he was being observed for 30 minutes afterward.Up to 600 volunteers are taking part in the first phase, and trial organizers have said eventually as many as 27,000 people could take part.

Uganda: Rebel commander's remains believed discovered

RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Ugandan troops in Central African Republic have found the remains believed Resistance Army commander who had been presumed dead, a Ugandan military spokesman said Monday.

Ugandan authorities will be conducting DNA tests on a skeleton exhumed from a bush in Central Af-

aided Ugandan troops are to a grave he said conhunting down Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army rebel fighters, said Lt. Col. ny's deputy and was one Paddy Ankunda.

to be those of a top Lord's said last year they believed for alleged war crimes and ruthlessness. His ICC arrest dead, it would mean Odhiambo had died in late 2013 after being wounded in an attack by African troops near the town of Djema in Central African Republic.

tained the body of Odhiambo, who once was Koof those indicted by the In-Ugandan military officials ternational Criminal Court rebel commander Okot crimes against impunity.

Odhiambo was a member of the "control altar" of the Lord's Resistance Army, a small group of Ugandanborn rebel commanders who planned and imple-Ankunda said Monday a mented the group's many defector from the rebel atrocities over the years, rican Republic, where U.S.- group led Ugandan soldiers according to the watch- against the government, is face trial.

dog group Enough Project. In a rebel group known for savagery that sometimes included chopping off the limbs of victims, Odhiambo stood out for his alleged that described him as "the one who killed the most." Watchdog groups and

Ugandan military officials believe the Lord's Resistance Army, which oriainated in Uganda in the 1980s as a tribal uprising now vastly weakened as a fighting force amid an international hunt for its leaders across different parts of central Africa.

If Odhiambo is confirmed warrant cited one account only Kony is still at large among the group's top five leaders indicted in 2005 by the International Criminal Court. Another rebel commander, Dominic Ongwen, surrendered last month and has since been transferred to The Hague to



Colorful Children's Carnaval Parades Enjoyed by All!











ORANJESTAD - Children big and small, with their families, friends, balloons and feathers in tow came out in droves on Saturday and Sunday for a weekend of fabulous Children's Parades in Oranjestad and Noord – two of the many in a procession of processions that make up what are Aruba's annual Carnaval festivities. The colorful Noord Children's Parade celebrated its magnificent 50th Anniversary this Satur-

day, dancing and gyrating its way from Cheng's Supermarket in Bubali all the way to the Centro di Bario in Noord. The Grand Children's Parade in Oranjestad on Sunday began inland at the Dakota Entertainment Center in Dakota, and after winded its way towards Oranjestad to the delight of Carnaval enthusiasts made its way right back to where it started in Dakota! The excited young people who made up the



Grand Children's Parade the families who actively and Noord Children's Pa-participate in most of the rade are largely those of major Carnaval activities



Continued on Page 14













Continued from Page 13

Both participants and spectators alike had a funtastic time dancing and enjoying the magic of the Grand Children's Parade and the Noord Children's Parade!







ALHYDRAN, a highly recommended medical moisture-regulating gel-cream in burn clinics worldwide, now locally available.

Tourists and locals love Aruba Aloe's skin care and sun care products, but what most people don't know is that Aruba Aloe also produces a highly concentrated moisture-regulating gelcream called *Alhydran*, which is used for the aftercare treatment of burn scars, surgical wounds, redness, itching, rashes after laser therapy or radiotherapy, and other scar tissue. This very effective cream has become one of the new standards in scar treatment in university hospitals and burn clinics worldwide. Sold in over 22 countries, this unique Aruban export product is now locally available in all Aruba Aloe stores and on www.arubaaloe.com.

A success story

Wim Arns, a middle-aged Dutch man, got severely burned on his hands and face when cigar ashes drifted down into a bucket of paraffin oil he was holding, causing a spontaneous explosion. Wim: "After being treated in the Burn Centre in Rotterdam, the doctors referred me to a skin therapist in my hometown to continue the aftercare of the burn scars. My skin felt really tight and itchy, and I wanted a cream to help with this. That's when the therapist recommended Alhydran. Already within an hour of applying the cream, I felt my skin had more space to breathe and the itching stopped. My face has healed completely, the skin has total flexibility again, and the same goes for my hands. Therapy certainly contributed to this, but I attribute the flexibility of the skin and eradication of the itching to the use of Alhydran."



Rina Rijkenberg is a certified skin therapist in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands. As a specialist, she has different skin products to choose from, but *Alhydran* is her #1 solution. Rina: "A lot of complaints are that the skin feels dry, itchy, red, sensitive, and painful, which are symptoms frequently associated with burn victims, lymph edema patients, and people who have undergone radiation therapy or have general scar tissue, acne, or excessive hair. All this can be caused by a deregulation in the moisture levels of the skin. The secret to *Alhydran* is that it regulates the moisture levels of the skin continuously in an unprecedented way. A very high dosage of pure Aloe Vera gel delivers the hydration, and pure Vitamin C, Vitamin E, and Jojoba oil prolong the activity. Patients can actually see and feel their skin healing."

Points of Sale

For more information about the locations of our Aruba Aloe stores, please consult the list below or visit www.arubaaloe.com/stores online.

- Aruba Aloe Factory & Museum Store (Hato)
- Aruba Aloe Renaissance
- Aruba Aloe La Cabana
- Aruba Aloe Paseo Herencia (Shopping mall)
- Aruba Aloe Alhambra
- Aruba Aloe Arawak (Palm beach)
- Aruba Aloe Cruise Terminal (APA Cruise Terminal)

- Aruba Aloe Divi Links (Divi Aruba Hotel)
- Aruba Aloe Tamarijn Tamarijn Aruba Hotel)
- Aruba Aloe Occidental (Occidental Hotel)
- · Aruba Aloe Marriott Ocean Club
- · Aruba Aloe Riu Palace Antillas
- Aruba Aloe Main Street
- Aruba Aloe at The Village (In front of Radisson Resort)



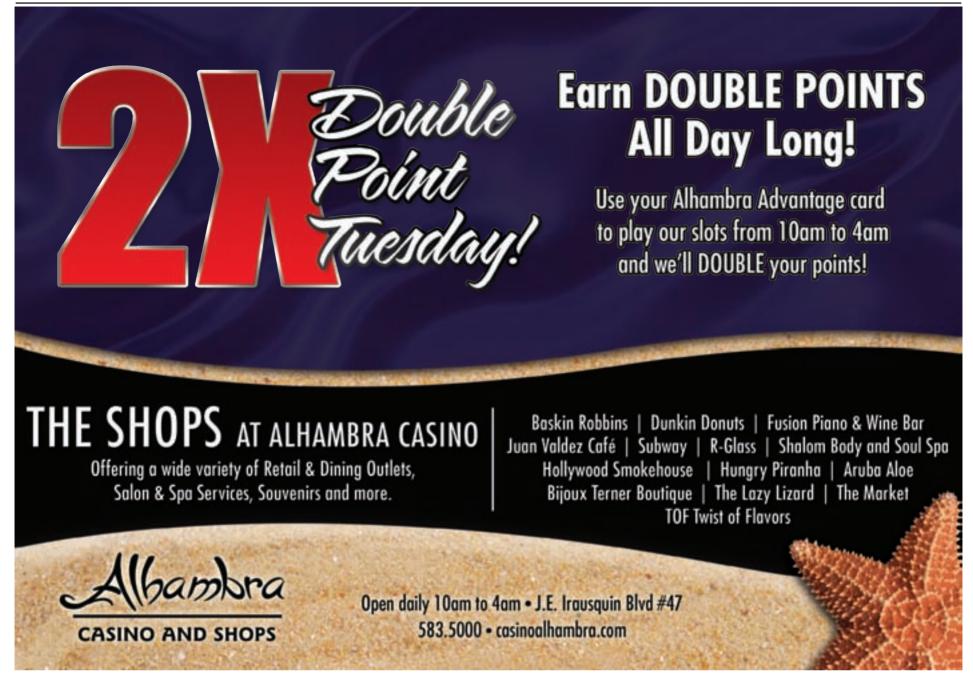












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are located at Casa del Mar (pool deck), Playa Linda resort next to the juice bar, Holiday Inn Desk and at the Concierge & Pelican Pier desk located between Holiday Inn hotel & Playa Linda Resort.

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Brady Praises Patriots' 60-Minute Effort

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) yells during the NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game against the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke) Page 19



time was on the clock,"

Bevell said, "We wanted

to use as much of it as we

could. We had one time-

out left, so we ran it on first

down and changed the

personnel up quick from it."

The clock ticked toward 30

seconds. The Patriots insert-

ed their goal line defense,

front-loaded with stout line-

men. The Seahawks had

Lynch in the backfield and

Seahawks' final pass play call roundly criticized

JOHN BRANCH © 2015 New York Times

GLENDALE, Ariz. - Darrell Bevell was 20 miles from home, but he really just wanted to go 1 yard. That was how far the Seattle Seahawks were from the winning touchdown in the final seconds of Sunday's Super Bowl. How they got there was Bevell's decision.

As a teenager, Bevell and his father, Jim, would watch film of games together, pushing the button to make it go forward and back and forward again, analyzing what worked and what did not. Jim Bevell was the coach at Chaparral High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Darrell Bevell was his star quarterback.

"To be able to play in a Super Bowl here, you couldn't even dream it up this good," Darrell Bevell, 45, said last week.

And now here he was, with the game's key calculation, the ball at the 1-yard line, the fourth-quarter clock ticking into the final half-minute, the NFL's toughest running back on the field.

But Bevell did not call for a handoff to Marshawn Lynch. Through the headset he called a pass play, as coach Pete Carroll wanted. Quarterback Russell Wilson was intercepted, and the Seahawks lost, 28-24.

Bevell became the goat, not the hometown hero.

"That was the worst play call I've seen in the history of football," Emmitt Smith, the former Cowboys running back, wrote on Twitter. Countless critics were equally exasperated by Bevell's decision not to give the ball to Lynch, nicknamed Beast Mode, who had rushed for 4 yards on the previous play and 102 in the game. Former NFL running backs now in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, like Smith, were most indignant.

"WCE!!!" former Rams back Eric Dickerson tweeted. share it with your friends on second down, but his "Worst Call Ever. Beast Mode in the backfield and you throw it?"

Carroll took responsibility ("There's really nobody to blame but me," he said), and Wilson admitted that

throw.

But second-guessing flooded past them and washed over Bevell, in charge of Seattle's offense for four years, including during last year's 43-8 Super Bowl victory over Denver. History appears determined to cement the interception as a play-calling blunder as

he did not make his best Bevell has built a dynamic memorable catches in Suoffense around Wilson, a third-year quarterback, and Lynch, the bruising running back, and is a frequent candidate for headcoaching jobs in the NFL. His play call in the final moments of the Super Bowl will probably be a question he will be forced to answer repeatedly.

per Bowl history.

In tandem, Kearse and New England cornerback Malcolm Butler leapt for the ball. It bounced off Kearse's hand as both men fell backward to the grass, then ricocheted off one of his knees, then another, then off his hands and into his arms.

> three receivers. Bevell, speaking into a headset connected to Carroll and Wilson, called for a pass. It was what Carroll wanted, too. "I told him to throw it, because of the matchup," Carroll told ESPN in the locker room. Kearse and Lockette were

lined up to the right, covered by two Patriots. The ball was snapped to Wilson, in the shotgun formation, with 26 seconds left. Kearse was jammed by one defender. Lockette cut inside along the goal line and appeared to be open. Wilson threw. He did not anticipate how quickly Butler would surge forward from a few yards deep in the end zone.

"I thought it was a touchdown, honestly," Wilson said.

Lockette never saw Butler, either. Just as the ball arrived to Lockette's hands, Butler snared it from the air. "In retrospect, we could have easily run it and we wouldn't be talking about this," Carroll said. "We might have got stuffed on third and fourth down. I don't know. This is what happened."

Butler stole the game. Bevell had questions to answer. It is a part of being the offensive coordinator.

"I know I have a hard job because I think everybody feels like they can call plays, whether it's the guy in his living room or the people in the stadium," Bevell told The Seattle Times in January 2014. "But there is a rhyme and reason why we do everything."

He added: "And really, I'm my own worst critic. I like to go back and look at everything I do. Why did I do that? I know there are situations where I wouldn't



New England Patriots strong safety Malcolm Butler (21) intercepts a pass intended for Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Ricardo Lockette (83) during the second half of NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz. It was the game-winning play for the Patriots, and a play call that has been roundly criticized throughout the sporting world. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

head-shaking as any.

"I mean, shoot, it didn't turn out the way I hoped it would, so of course I am sitting here saying, 'Could I do something different?" Bevell said after the game. His father, now retired and still living in Scottsdale, was among the family and friends in attendance at University of Phoenix Stadium. Days before, Darrell Bevell, married with three daughters, had allowed himself to dream of a winning ending.

"That would be extra special," he said. "You get to and your family a little bit. It is right here in your backyard. Everyone gets to say, 'Yeah, I remember when he went to Chaparral.' It is really cool and exciting to be back."

Seattle had a 10-point lead before New England quarterback Tom Brady led the Patriots on two fourth-quarter touchdown drives. The Seahawks, suddenly losing, 28-24, got the ball with 2 minutes, 2 seconds remaining. Wilson lobbed a pass down the sideline to Lynch for a 31-yard gain, and the clock stopped for the twominute warning with 1:55 left. After an incompletion, Seattle used its first timeout. There was 1:50 left, and the Seahawks were at New England's 49-yard line.

Wilson threw incomplete 11-yard pass to Ricardo Lockette gave Seattle a new set of downs. From the 38-yard line, Wilson lobbed a ball down the right side for Jermaine Kearse, who made one of the more

The Seahawks had a first down at the 5-yard line, and called a timeout with 1:06 left.

Bevell called to hand the ball to Lynch, who ran to the left for 4 yards. The clock ticked. The Patriots could have called a timeout, to give themselves more time on offense if Seattle scored. They could have let the Seahawks score immediately for the same reason.

"We would have used our timeouts if that had been a running play," coach Bill Belichick said, though that still would have left the Patriots with just about 20 sec-

The championship would rest on whether the Seahawks would score a touchdown.

"We wanted to be really conscious about how much want to do that again."



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Ex-NFL player **Warren Sapp** arrested in AZ

PHOENIX (AP) — Former NFL lineman and Hall of Famer Warren Sapp was arrested Monday on suspicion of soliciting a prostitute and allegedly assaulting two women, Phoenix police said.

Sapp was taken into custody at a downtown Phoenix hotel and booked into jail, police said. It wasn't immediately clear if he has an attorney. Sapp, 42, was in Arizona for Sunday's Super Bowl in suburban Glendale and is a broadcaster for the NFL Network."Warren Sapp has been suspended indefinitely without pay from NFL Network pending the outcome of ongoing police investigation," Alex Riethmiller, a spokesman for the network, said in a statement Monday.

Sapp, a tackle and defensive end, played in the NFL from 1995-2007 for Tampa Bay and Oakland. He was a vital contributor for the Buccaneers as they went from also-ran to Super Bowl champion after the 2002 season and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2013.

However, Sapp has had a history with legal troubles around the Super Bowl. He was arrested the day before the Super Bowl in 2010 on a domestic battery charge, but prosecutors later dropped the case because of inconsistences between the victim's statements and evidence, including surveillance video. Despite making millions in his playing career, Sapp filed for bankruptcy in 2012 in Florida after owing more than \$6.7 million to creditors and back child support and alimony.

MVP Brady praises Patriots' 60-minute effort

MELISSA HOPPERT © 2015 New York Times PHOENIX - Just past 8:30 a.m. Monday, a visibly exhausted Tom Brady strode to the podium to accept

the last seven years, being ahead late in the game with the chance to win it, and not closing it out," Brady, his voice cracking, said of the New Eng-

er end of this two times in Brady said he was proud of all of his teammates, though, especially Malcolm Butler, who intercepted a pass by Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson at the goal line with 20 sec-

NFL took repeated blows to its image from its handling of the Ray Rice and Adrian Peterson domestic abuse cases, among other things, it was surely a relief that Brady was standing on that stage. The deflation scandal that dogged the Patriots in the lead-up to the game seemed to be in the past, even if the league had not yet released its findings on the matter.

ther. In a season in which the

For his part, coach Bill Belichick said he was done speaking about it.

"I have twice gone into great detail about everything I knew," he said. "I have tried to be totally transparent and given everybody as much information as I have. That is all I have to give."

Instead, he preferred to speak about his team, especially his star quarterback, whom he called a "pillar of strength." Swapping his trademark hoodie for a suit and a tie, he smiled wide and even attempted to make a few jokes before turning serious again.

"It was a game that came down to the final seconds," Belichick said. "A yard separated the two teams."

He continued: "It's a group that never stopped competing, never stopped fighting and never stopped playing. I think last night's aame, for me, was reflective of the entire year, what I saw on a daily basis from that group of players and coaches."

he could not yet reflect on his legacy because he was still in the midst of his career. "I was just a young kid when we won those first three," said Brady, who completed 37 of 50 passes for 328 yards and four touchdowns.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, as the Vince Lombardi Trophy sits nearby, fields questions at news conference where he received his Super Bowl XLIX MVP trophy in Phoenix, Feb. 2, 2015.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

Award and answer just a few more questions about what exactly happened the night before in the des-

The Phoenix Convention Center - the hub of all things Super Bowl, from the media center to the NFL Experience - was a ghost town compared with what it had been before the big game.

Standing behind the Lombardi and MVP trophies, in a room one-fourth the size of the one that held the halftime news conference, Brady spoke of overcoming a 10-point deficit in the second half - the largest in Super Bowl history - to secure his team's fourth title and third MVP trophy.

"We've been on the oth-

land Patriots' 28-24 victory against the Seattle Seahawks. "Coach talked all week about how it was going to take all 60 minutes, and it certainly did."

Brady, wearing jeans and a white sweatshirt, acknowledged that the Patriots' postgame celebration lasted well into the night. He said he and wide receiver Julian Edelman - the one whom he sometimes affectionately calls babe - could not stop talking about the game, recounting the final frenzied minutes.

"He played the game of his life," Brady said about Edelman, who caught a 3-yard touchdown pass with 2 minutes 2 seconds remaining to put New England ahead, 28-24.

onds remaining to seal the victory.

"He's been doing it to me in practice all season, so it was actually nice to see him pick somebody else off," Brady said of Butler, an undrafted rookie corner-

Brady continued: "There was a lot of highs and lows to the game, and that was a great high. It took a great effort, like I said. Malcolm made a huge play to save Most of all, Brady, 37, said our season. It took a lot of he felt rejuvenated. He said guys, a lot of effort, and a lot of individual efforts. Collectively as a team, we made plays to get the job

As Brady spoke, Commissioner Roger Goodell stood near the stage, looking on and smiling like a proud fa-



Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel enters treatment

TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel has sought help to change his off-field lifestyle.

Following a rough rookie season in the NFL, Manziel has entered a treatment program for unspecified reasons, one of his advisers said in a statement released by the team on Monday.

"Johnny knows there are areas he needs to improve on to help him be a better family member, friend and teammate, so he decided to take this step in his life during the offseason," Manziel adviser Brad Beckworth said. Beckworth said the former Heisman Trophy winner entered the unnamed facility last week. He said Manziel's family is asking for privacy until he rejoins the team.

Beckworth's statement

sons for Manziel needing treatment. However, the 22-vear-old QB's penchant for partying followed him from college into the pros and Manziel's nightlife has been well-chronicled by both social and mainstream media.

The location of the facility where Manziel is staying is not immediately known.

Browns general manager Ray Farmer said in a statement that the team fully supports Manziel and respects his initiative in entering treatment.

The team will respect Manziel's privacy during treatment, he said.

"Our players' health and well-being will always be of the utmost importance to the Cleveland Browns," Farmer said. "We continually strive to create a supportive environment and provide the appropriate resources, with our foremost focus being on the did not indicate rea- individual and not just the



FILE - In this Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014, file photo, Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel (2) sits on the bench during the second half of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C. An advisor for Manziel said in a statement released by the team Monday, Feb. 2, 2015, that Manziel has decided to enter treatment for an unspecified condition.

(AP Photo/Bob Leverone)

football player."

Citing privacy laws, a Browns spokesman declined to provide any further information about Manziel's situation.

Browns wide receiver Andrew Hawkins offered his support to Manziel on Twit-

"Much love and support to my brother Johnny," Hawkins wrote. "Proud of him, big step. Football is secondary. God Bless!" Manziel, who won the Heisman as a freshman at

Texas A&M where his play-

making skills earned him his "Johnny Football" nickname, has faced questions for several years about his active nightlife.

After he was drafted in May by the Browns in the first round,

Manziel was repeatedly photographed drinking alcohol during weekend trips to Las Vegas. A photograph of Manziel floating on an inflatable swan raft swigging a bottle of champagne went viral.

Manziel spent the majority of last season as starter Brian Hoyer's backup before coach Mike Pettine switched their roles with the team still in the playoff hunt.

Manziel made his first start on Dec. 14 against Cincinnati, but failed miserably. He appeared unprepared and overmatched as the Bengals defense harassed him into two interceptions and the Browns were throt-

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Cuadrado seals Chelsea move on quiet transfer deadline day

AP Sports Writer LONDON (AP) — Europe's top clubs shunned any lastminute scramble for players on the final trading day

matches for Fiorentina this season. He joins a Chelsea side competing for titles in the Premier League and Champions League, although the first chance for silverware comes in the

21-year-old striker Harry Kane signed a deal through 2020 after scoring 20 goals in all competitions this campaign.

Benoit Assou-Ekotto's Tottenham career is over after

fourth in the league, added midfielder Filip Djuricic to the sauad for the rest of the season on a loan deal from Benfica. And defender Ryan Bertrand's loan move from Chelsea was made permanent. In south London, Crystal Palace signed up two wingers. Wilfried Zaha was already on loan from Manchester United, but has now permanently rejoined the club he left in 2013 on a $5\frac{1}{2}$ year deal. Zaha, who was Alex Ferguson's last sign-

ing as Manchester United manager, made only four appearances for the club. South Korea international Lee Chung-Yong joined Palace from Bolton on a contract through 2018.

Here is a look at the other key activity on deadline-day in parts of Europe:

-ITALY: As Juventus re-signed Alessandro Matri on Ioan from AC Milan, Sebastian Giovinco was sent on loan to Major League Soccer team Toronto.



Fiorentina's Juan Cuadrado reacts during a Serie A soccer match between Fiorentina and Sassuolo at the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence. Europe's top clubs shunned any last-minute scramble for players on the final trading day of the season Monday, with Premier League leader Chelsea making the only major deal by completing formalities to sign Juan Cuadrado.

(AP Photo/Fabrizio Giovannozzi)

Premier League leader Chelsea making the only major deal by completing formalities to sign Juan Cuadrado. The 26-year-old winger left Fiorentina for around \$40 million on a 4 1/2-deal as Chelsea offloaded Andre Schuerrle to German side Wolfsburg.

Cuadrado, who starred at the World Cup for Colombia, scored five goals in 17 March 1 League Cup final against Tottenham.

"This is a great club and honestly it is like a dream to join the Chelsea family and to know that the manager believes in me," Cuadrado

It was a busy transfer deadline day at Tottenham which started by tying its breakthrough player of the season to a new contract. The

being released from his contract. The defender has not played for the club since May 2013 and spent last season on loan at Queens Park Rangers.

Winger Aaron Lennon was sent on loan to Everton until the end of the season after losing his place in the team and starting only three league matches this season. Southampton, which is

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MON-THURS 5:10 | 8:00 FRI 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50 SAT 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50 SUN & HOL 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00

MORTDECAL

JOHNNY DEPP | GWYNETH PALTROW

MON-THURS 9:20 FRI -SAT 9:20 | 11:45 SUN & HOL 9:20

JENNIFER LOPEZ | RYAN GUZMAN

THE **BOY NEXT DOOR**

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*N*ëdding Ringer

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35 SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35 SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

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PADDING ADAPTED SCREENPL

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HELEN MCCRORY | JEREMY IRVINE LIAM NEESON | FOREST WHITAKER WOMANINBLACK2

SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 12:10 SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

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McIlroy switches focus to agent lawsuit

DUBLIN (AP) — Fresh off his first tournament win of the year, Rory McIlroy will switch his focus from the course to a courtroom on Tuesday for the start of his multi-million dollar case against his former management company.

The four-time major winner initiated the case against Dublin-based Horizon Sports Management and its leading agent at the end of 2013, claiming he was misled into signing a contract with the company.

McIlroy has said in court

papers that he signed the contract at Horizon's Christmas party "in circumstances of great informality" and without having seen a draft of the agreement before it was given to him to sign.

Horizon is counter-suing, claiming McIlroy owes it millions of dollars in commission.

McIlroy, who left Horizon to form his own management company in 2013, is expected to testify in court this week. He is coming off a victory at the Dubai Desert Classic on Sunday.

Speaking before the tournament, McIlroy said he hopes the court case "won't take that long, and we can get on with our lives."

"It's not something you want hanging over your head and it's not something I'd want anyone to go through, it's not a nice process," McIlroy said. "It's a shame it's gone this far and that two sides see things completely differently. The only way to sort it out is to get a judge to come in and tell us what to do."



Toddler food often has too much salt, sugar, a new U.S. study says

LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Many packaged meals and snacks for toddlers contain worrisome amounts of salt and sugar, potentially creating an early taste for foods that may contribute to obesity and other health risks, according to a new government study.

About seven in 10 toddler dinners studied contained too much salt, and most cereal bars, breakfast pastries and snacks for infants and toddlers contained ute to obesity and elevated blood pressure even in childhood, but also later on

"We also know that about one in nine children have blood pressure above the normal range for their age, and that sodium, excess sodium, is related to increased blood pressure," said the CDC's Mary Cogswell, the study's lead author

The researchers collected data on foods available in 2012. They didn't list brand names, but foods studied

meal options that their children will enjoy," the group said.

The researchers said theirs is the most recent, comprehensive data on commercial foods for young children. Cogswell acknowledged there have been some improvements in the marketplace and said the findings aren't all negative.

Foods for toddlers should contain no more than about 210 milligrams of salt or sodium per serving, under Institute of Medicine



Kathy Burnett prepares a snack for her daughters Claudia, center, and Sabina right, after their gymnastics class in Chicago. Burnett says she tries to feed her girls healthy, natural foods rather than commercial packaged products. A study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that many packaged foods and snacks marketed for toddlers contain too much salt and sugar and could potentially contribute to childhood obesity and high blood pressure.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

extra sugars, according to the study by researchers at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They advise parents to read food labels carefully and select healthier choices.

The researchers analyzed package information and labels for more than 1,000 foods marketed for infants and toddlers. Results appear in the journal Pediatrics on Monday.

The study notes that almost one in four U.S. children ages 2 to 5 are overweight or obese — and that almost 80 percent of kids ages 1 to 3 exceed the recommended maximum level of daily salt, which is 1,500 milligrams. Excess sugar and salt can contrib-

included popular brands of baby food, toddler dinners including packaged macaroni and cheese, mini hot dogs, rice cakes, crackers, dried fruit snacks and yogurt treats.

The Grocery Manufacturers of America, a trade group whose members include makers of foods for infants and toddlers, issued a statement saying the study "does not accurately reflect the wide range of healthy choices available in today's marketplace ... because it is based on 2012 data that does not reflect new products with reduced sodium levels."

The study "could needlessly alarm and confuse busy parents as they strive to develop suitable recommendations, but the average for toddler meals studied was 361 milligrams — almost 1.5 times higher than that limit. Sodium amounts per serving ranged from 100 milligrams to more than 900 milligrams

High sugar content was defined as more than 35 percent of calories per portion coming from sugar, based on Institute of Medicine guidelines for foods served in schools. Many foods in the study exceeded that. On average, sugar contributed 47 percent of calories for infant mixed grains and fruit; 66 percent of calories in dried fruit snacks, and more than 35 percent of calories in dairy-based desserts.

Spreading with the measles: A polarization on vaccination

BRENDAN NYHAN
© 2015 New York Times

Will a measles outbreak persuade more parents to vaccinate their children?

That's the question people are asking as concern grows about the outbreak linked to Disneyland that has spread to 67 cases across seven states.

Some doctors have expressed hope that parents will be more likely to get their children immunized. I hope they're right, but research suggests that the long-term effects of the outbreak could be worse, not better. The social and political conflicts we've seen emerge over the outbreak threaten to polarize the issue along political lines and weaken the social consensus in favor of vaccination.

Measles was declared eradicated in the United States in 2000, but vaccination is still crucial to protect against a resurgence due to cases imported from overseas. The Disneyland outbreak, which was probably caused by just one infected person, highlights just how explosively contagious the disease can be.

Despite the anxiety that some parents are feeling after the outbreak, it's not clear that even such a vivid reminder of a vaccine-preventable disease will change many people's minds given the resistance we continue to see from hesitant parents. In a previous study, my coauthors and I found that a series of messages used by public health officials to convey the dangers of measles, mumps and rubella had no effect on parents' intention to vaccinate. Even events as high profile as the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School tend to have only a brief effect on public opinion toward the issue in question - as was observed in Washington state, where a recent pertussis outbreak did not change vaccination rates.

Moreover, the outbreak has fueled a backlash against the anti-vaccine movement that is likely to be counterproductive. Dr. James Cherry, an infectious disease specialist at UCLA, for instance, labeled parents of unvaccinated children "selfish" and "dumb," while a Los Angeles Times columnist, Michael Hiltzik, called for treating "the anti-vaccination crowd" as "public enemies." If we've learned anything in politics over the past few decades, it's that this kind of language is likely to be polarizing, driving people away rather than persuading them.

What's even more dangerous is politicizing the debate over vaccines. Comments by Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey calling for "balance" in the vaccine debate after President Barack Obama said Americans should "get your kids vaccinated" could have a similarly perverse effect, turning a public health issue into a matter of partisan allegiance.

In fact, the social consensus in favor of vaccination is overwhelming. Even after recent increases, for instance, only 3 percent of kindergartners in California had an exemption from vaccination. We should strengthen and reinforce this norm, not create an uproar that calls it into question.

A better approach is to work in a more targeted fashion to help health care providers identify at-risk patients and communicate with them more effectively. Likewise, we should support community, business, educational and health groups in areas at greater risk of outbreaks and help them promote the importance of vaccination within their communities. Trusted friends and neighbors can be more effective advocates than government health agencies.

Finally, it may be time to reconsider overly lenient state exemption policies that fail to strike an appropriate balance between public health and personal autonomy. The Disneyland outbreak may not change most people's minds about vaccines, but if it causes policymakers to re-evaluate the status quo, this horrible episode might do some good after all.



Apple is turning closed AZ facility into data center

BOB CHRISTIE Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Tech giant Apple said Monday it will invest \$2 billion over 10 years to open a data center in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa that will be the company's fifth in the U.S. and serve as a control facility for the other four. The announcement comes four months after an earlier Apple plan for the 1.3 million-square-foot (0.12 million-square-meter) facility it bought in 2013 failed. Apple had a deal with Merrimack, New Hampshire-based GT Advanced to use the plant to make sapphire glass for its products, but the company declared bankruptcy in October after production issues developed. GT openly accused Apple of using a "classic bait-and-switch strategy" with a deal that he called "massively onesided."

Apple lawyers accused the GT of making false statements about the deal, among other allegations.

After the GT failure, Apple said it would work to find another use for the plant. It also has been working to help more than 600 GT employees who lost their jobs.

"This multi-billion dollar project is one of the largest investments we've ever made, and when completed it will add over 600 engineering and construction jobs to the more than one million jobs Apple has already created in the U.S.," Apple said in a statement. "Like all Apple data centers, it will be powered by 100 percent renewable energy, much of which will come from a new local solar farm."

An Apple spokesman said construction on the new data center should start late next year, if not earlier. GT is storing advanced furnaces it planned to use in its Apple venture at the plant while the furnaces are being liquidated, delaying the immediate use of the plant.

Apple company expects 150 permanent workers at the site, in addition to construction crews and contractors.

Apple's data centers provide the computer muscle for its iCloud, ITunes, Siri and other products.

Hey, (Not-As) Big Spender:

Tech firms hint at more near-term restraint

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Technology's big-spending trio of Google, Facebook, and Amazon.com appear to be tightening their belts — at least a notch — in a concession to cost-conscious investors and a strong dollar that's taking a big bite out of their revenue.

Hints of restraint were sprinkled throughout the companies' latest quarterly reports released last week. Expenses at all three are still expected to rise faster than revenue this year, but Google Inc., Facebook Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. signaled that spending increases might not be as dramatic as expected. The message boosted all of their stocks, which had been in Wall Street's penalty box for the companies' free-spending ways.

The shift can be traced to economic turmoil in Europe and Asia that has caused the dollar's value to rise against many other currencies, said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. Revenue coming in from overseas will translate into fewer dollars — potentially chopping about 4 percent off of 2015 revenue compared with 2014, Gillis estimates.

"That's a significant hit," said Gillis. "They all have massive opportunities ahead that they want to pursue, but they are also going out of their way to sound more prudent."

Amazon's moderation was

the most obvious: the ecommerce company's fourth-quarter operating expenses rose at a slower pace than analysts had anticipated. That delighted investors who have become increasingly frustrated with recurring losses driven by CEO Jeff Bezos' prolific spending on data centers, distribution centers, gadgets and drones. Amazon shares. which had hit a 52-week low after the company's prior earnings report in October, spiked nearly 14 percent on the fourth-quarter results.

"It looks like Amazon does actually care about its stock and profits," Macquarie Securities analyst Ben Schachter wrote in a research note. Amazon earned \$214 million in the fourth quarter.

The change was more about tone than the actual numbers released by Facebook and Google, since spending at both companies still accelerated in the fourth quarter. Investors initially seemed spooked but settled down after reassuring remarks from Facebook and Google executives. Since their last quarterly earnings reports in October, Google's shares had fallen 4 percent and Facebook's shares slipped 6 percent. But the day after announcing earnings last week, Google shares rose nearly 5 percent and Facebook climbed 2 percent.

Google Chief Financial Officer Patrick Pichette stressed that the search giant's ex-

penses included \$300 million in one-time accounting items and emphasized the company's commitment to finding "a healthy balance between growth and discipline." That balancing act prompted the company to recently suspend consumer sales of Google Glass, its In-



This photo combo shows the Amazon, Google and Facebook logos. Technology's big-spending trio of Google, Facebook and Amazon.com appear to be tightening their belts a notch in a concession to cost-conscious investors and a strong dollar that's biting into some of their revenue.

(AP Photo)

ternet-connected eyewear, in an effort to design a version more likely to appeal to customers. Without providing specifics, Pichette promised Google will cancel other projects that "don't have the impact we had hoped for."

Meanwhile, Facebook re-

vised its 2015 budget. The social networking leader's costs may increase by as much as 70 percent this year, down from a previous ceiling of 75 percent, according to Chief Financial Officer David Wehner.

Google, Facebook and Amazon all spend heavily in effort to maintain the competitive advantages they built on desktop and laptop computers as tech usage now tilts toward smartphones and tablets. The companies also splurge on expensive experiments that may never pay off but that they view as valuable research.

Google plows money into a wide range of projects such as driverless cars, life-like robots, intelligent appliances, Internet-beaming balloons and satellites and even a quest to discover the Fountain of Youth. CEO Larry Page justifies these "moonshots" by pointing to hugely successful products such as Google's Android operating system, Chrome browser and YouTube video sites that were once viewed as ill-advised investments.

Facebook has been expanding into virtual reality and mobile messaging. Amazon.com is developing a fleet of drones to deliver packages to customers, creating its own original television shows, while also dabbling in a variety of gadgets such as the FireStick and Fire phone aimed at making it easier for people to buy goods from its website.

Intel to buy German broadband specialist Lantiq

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)

— Chip-making giant Intel plans to buy a German company that specializes in broadband access and home networking technologies, as part of a push to reach more households with high-end technology. Terms of the acquisition of Lantiq were not disclosed. The deal is expected to close in about three months.

Lantiq, which is based in Munich, has more than 2,000 patents covering broadband communications. Intel officials said in a statement that they expect more than 800 million broadband connected households worldwide by 2018, and a combination of their company with Lantiq "can allow global service providers to introduce new home computing experiences and enable consumers to take advantage of a more smart and connected home."

Intel Corp. has struggled

with its response to the trend toward mobile computing. The Santa Clara, California, company is the is the world's dominant maker of microprocessor chips that serve as the brains for PCs, but its business has suffered as consumers have increasingly turned to smartphones and tablets that mostly use lower-power chips made by other companies.

Intel also announced in early December that it would acquire PasswordBox, a service that saves and remembers passwords so that users can log into different websites without having to remember or type in their passwords. Terms of that deal also were not disclosed. Shares of Intel slipped 11 cents to \$32.93 in morn-

cents to \$32.93 in morning trading Monday. The stock jumped nearly 40 percent last year, more than tripling the advance of the Standard & Poor's 500 index, to close 2014 at \$36.29.



ExxonMobil earnings drop 21% on oil volatility

CLIFFORD KRAUSS © 2015 New York Times

HOUSTON - ExxonMobil on Monday reported a sharp drop in fourth-quarter revenue and profit because of declining oil prices, but the company did better than many of its competitors, thanks to improved profit margins of its chemical business.

The deep earnings decline for Exxon, the largest U.S. oil and gas producer, was expected, with net income falling to \$6.57 billion from \$8.35 billion in the same tionalization by Venezuela quarter last year.

tionalization by Venezuela and other one-time special

Executives blamed lower commodity prices, but there were other troubling signs, especially the company's decline in oil and gas production of 3.8 percent during the quarter. Both profit and revenue of \$87.3 billion were down 21 percent from the year earlier.

The results were bolstered by profits from asset sales, a successful arbitration settlement from a past naand other one-time special items. The company said it was cutting its quarterly share buybacks to \$1 billion, from \$3 billion, and while it did not give explicit new guidance on its investment plans for the year, it was clear that the company was trying to cut costs.

"We're probably in the early innings of this effort," Jeff Woodbury, vice president for investor relations, said during a conference call. "More is to come in that

area," he added, referring to declining rig counts but also rig rental rates and other declining service costs.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, fell more than a third to an average of under \$80 a barrel during the final three months of 2014. Oil prices plummeted further during January, producing the likelihood that earnings for Exxon and other oil companies would only deteriorate more in the current first quarter.

HP boss gets raise despite sales slump

BRANDON BAILEY
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Hewlett-Packard boss Meg Whitman has graduated from the dollar-a-year club, as the struggling company prepares to split up.

The veteran tech CEO was paid \$19.6 million in cash and stock last year, up from \$17.6 million in 2013, after HP's board of directors raised her base salary to \$1.5 million from \$1 and bestowed additional cash and stock awards based on her performance last year.

HP has reported declining revenue for each of the last three years. Whitman, who was named CEO in 2011, has warned shareholders that a turnaround would take several years. Despite the sales slump, HP's board concluded Whitman beat perfor-

mance targets that directors had set for revenue and cash flow in 2014, according to a regulatory filing on Monday. The board also said she had improved the company's product lines and strengthened its cloud-computing capabilities, while preparing for the impending split into two companies. One new company will sell personal computers and printers, while the other focuses on commercial tech products and services for business customers.

Whitman had received a base salary of \$1 a year since she became CEO. That's not unusual for leaders of big tech companies who generally receive valuable stock grants in addition.

But HP's board concluded that a raise to \$1.5 million was warranted "considering the stage of our turnaround."

She also received \$4.3 million in incentive payments based on her performance, along with \$8.1 million in stock grants and \$5.4 million in stock options that vest on the basis of the company's stock performance in coming years

Stocks rise in late oil rally; energy stocks jump

BERNARD CONDON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A late rally led by energy companies pushed U.S. stock indexes higher Monday after the market flitted between small gains and losses for most of the day.

Stocks opened higher, then moved down, then back up as investors seemed unable to make up their minds. A pair of weak reports on the U.S. economy fed the uncertainty. Oil prices ended up surging for a third straight day, and stocks of big producers jumped. All 10 industry sectors in the Standard and Poor's 500 index rose.

Exxon Mobil rose 2.5 percent after reporting better-than-expected earnings. Chevron jumped 3.4 percent. Both companies are members of the Dow Jones industrial average.

The market got a lift in early trading after European markets climbed following reassuring comments from France on Greece's efforts to ease the terms of its financial rescue program.

At mid-morning Eastern time, a closely watched monthly report revealed that U.S. manufacturing expanded last month at the slowest pace in a year. Also, the Commerce Department reported that consumer spending edged lower in December as vehicle sales slowed and more Americans chose to save rather than spend.

The difference between the highest and lowest levels in the S&P 500 index was than twice the average move over the past two years.

"The market still hasn't found a comfort zone," said Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices. "Volatility was so low for so long, we got used to it."

The S&P 500 rose 25.86 points, or 1.3 percent, to 2,020.85. The Dow added

2 percent for the day, more nies and unsettling investhan twice the average tors.

Investors are also on edge after a Greek election that put the anti-austerity Syriza party into power. Also, prices are falling in Europe and China's economy, the world's second-largest, is slowing. Adding to the concerns: A report Friday showing the U.S. economy grew at 2.6 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter, nearly

it looks like there is a bit of contagion."

U.S. crude oil rose \$1.33 to close at \$49.57 a barrel in New York, its highest level in nearly a month. Traders bet that oil has bottomed out despite signs of rising inventories and a refinery strike that may shrink crude consumption. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose \$1.76 to



Trader Mark Puetzer, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A late rally led by energy companies pushed U.S. stock indexes higher Monday after the market flitted between small gains and losses for most of the day.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

196.09 points, or 1.1 percent, to 17,361.04. The Nasdaq composite rose 41.45 points, or 0.9 percent, to 4,676.69

The price of benchmark U.S. oil has fallen more than 50 percent in the past seven months, threatening the profits of energy compa-

half as fast as in the previous quarter and less than economists had expected. "The U.S. has been able to chug along despite what's going on in the rest of the world," market strategist Bill Strazzullo of Bell Curve Trading said after the factory report came out. "But now

196.09 points, or 1.1 per- half as fast as in the previctors at \$54.75 a barrel in cent, to 17,361.04. The Nas- ous quarter and less than London.

Energy companies rose 3 percent, the biggest gain among the 10 sectors in the S&P 500. Among the big winners, Denbury Resources jumped 12 percent and Chesapeake Energy rose 7 percent.

Czar Putin's Next Moves



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN © 2015 New York Times

ZURICH - Last March, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was quoted as saying that Russian President Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine, supposedly in defense of Russian-speakers there, was just like "what Hitler did back in the '30s" - using ethnic Germans to justify his invasion of neighboring lands. At the time, I thought such a comparison was over the top. I don't think so anymore. I'd endorse Clinton's comparison purely for the shock value: It draws attention to the awful things Putin is doing to Ukraine, not to mention his own country, whose credit rating was just reduced to junk status.

Putin's use of Russian troops wearing uniforms without insignia to invade Ukraine and to covertly buttress Ukrainian rebels bought and paid for by Moscow - all disguised by a web of lies that would have made Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels blush and all for the purpose of destroying Ukraine's reform movement before it can create a democratic model that might appeal to Russians more than Putin's kleptocracy - is the ugliest geopolitical mugging happening in the world today.

Ukraine matters - more than the war in Iraq against the Islamic State, aka, ISIS. It is still not clear that most of our allies in the war against ISIS share our values. That conflict has a big tribal and sectarian element. It is unmistakably clear, though, that Ukraine's reformers in its newly elected government and Parliament who are struggling to get free of Russia's orbit and become part of the European Union's market and democratic community do share our values. If Putin the Thug gets away with crushing Ukraine's new democratic experiment and unilaterally redrawing the borders of Europe, every pro-Western country around Russia will be in danger.

"Putin fears a Ukraine that demands to live and wants to live and insists on living on European values - with a robust civil society and freedom of speech and religion (and) with a system of val ues the Ukrainian people have chosen and laid down their lives for," Natalie Jaresko, Ukraine's finance minister, told a Ukraine seminar at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last week.

The U.S. and Germany have done a good job organizing the sanctions on Russia. While the Obama administration recently decided to deploy some U.S. soldiers to Ukraine in the spring to train the Ukrainian National Guard, I'd support increasing our military aid to Ukraine's army now so it can better defend itself from the estimated 9,000 troops Putin has infiltrated into Ukraine. Ukraine also needs \$15 billion in loans and grants in the next year to stabilize its economy, in addition to its bailout from the International Monetary Fund. Ukrainians had dug themselves into a deep, deep hole with their 20-plus years of industrial levels of corruption from a series of bad governments after Kiev became independent of the Soviet Union. The reason for hope is that the revolution and latest elections in Ukraine have brought in a new generation of reformers, who are rapidly transforming ministries and passing tax and transparency regulations. They are actually welcoming hardheaded, goodgovernance benchmarks as a condition for Western aid. But if they deliver, we must deliver. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has

been traveling across Europe this week in part to lock in the aid package for Kiev. The U.S. has committed its share, but the European Union is still balking a bit. Putin's aim is to sow enough instability that the West will hold back aid so the Ukraine reformers will fail to deliver and be discredited. That would be a shame.

Global financier George Soros, who's been helping foster Ukrainian reform, told the Davos gathering that "there is a new Ukraine that is determined to be different from the old Ukraine. ... What makes it unique is that it is not only willing to fight but engage in executing a set of radical reforms. It is up against the old Ukraine that has not disappeared ... and up against a very determined design by President Putin to destabilize it and destroy it. But it is determined to assert the independence and European orientation of the new Ukraine."

Ukraine could also affect the price of oil. The two biggest actors who can shape that price today are Saudi Arabia's new king, Salman, and Russia's czar, Putin. If the Saudis decide to cut back production significantly, the price of oil will go up. And if Putin decides to fully invade Ukraine, or worse, one of the Baltic states, and test whether NATO will really fight to defend either, the price of oil will go up. With his economy in shambles, Putin's government is now almost entirely dependent on oil and gas exports, so he's really hurting with the oil price collapse. The odds of Putin fully invading Ukraine or the Baltics are low, but do not rule out either. Triggering a big geopolitical cri sis with NATO is an easy way for Putin to shock the oil price back up. Putin's covert Ukraine interventions up to now have not succeeded in that. In sum: Todav's oil price will be most affected by two men - King Salman and how

he uses his spare capacity to

produce oil and Czar Putin and

how he uses his spare capacity

to produce trouble.



Is Vaping Worse Than Smoking?



JOE NOCERA © 2015 New York Times

So I suppose you heard about the latest e-cigarette study, the one that said that the vapors ecigarette users inhale contain multiple forms of formaldehyde. It was much in the news last week, after its authors, five scientists from Portland State University, published a peer-reviewed letter outlining their findings in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

"Before You Vape: High Levels of Formaldehyde Hidden in E-Cias.' said the headline at NBC.com. "Can You Guess What Cancer-Causing Agent Researchers Just Found in Electronic Cigarettes?" asked The Motley Fool. "E-Ciaarettes Not Safer Than Ordinary Cigarettes," claimed the online publication Tech Times. The New Enaland Journal of Medicine chimed in with a tweet of its own: "Chemical analysis of e-cias' vapor show high levels of formaldehyde," it read. "Authors project higher cancer risk than smoking.' known as a premium vaporizer that heats a flavored liquid containing nicotine. The heat causes the liquid to turn into vapor, which the user inhales. Most of these devices also allow the user to control the voltage. These devices have become increasinaly popular as a way to ingest nicotine without smoking.

In the study, the Portland State

scientists ran the device at both a low voltage and a high voltage. At the low voltage, they did not detect formaldehyde. But at the high voltage, they found some. Formaldehyde is, indeed, a known carcinogen, which also exists, among hundreds of other toxic chemicals and dozens of cancer-causing agents, in combustible cigarettes. The authors concluded that someone who was a heavy user of a vaporizer at the high voltage was five to 15 times more likely to get cancer than a longtime smoker. Or so they seemed to say.

There is not much doubt that studies like this have an impact on the public perception of ecigarettes. Even though cigarettes result in 480,000 American deaths each year - and even though it is the tobacco, not the nicotine, that kills them - many in the public health community treat e-cigarettes as every bit as evil. Every dollop of news suggesting that vaping is bad for your health, much of which has been overblown, is irrationally embraced by anti-tobacco activists. One result is that, whereas 84 percent of current smokers thought e-cigarettes were safer than ordinary cigarettes in 2010, that number had dropped to 65 percent by 2013. Worse,

close to a third of the people who had abandoned e-ciaarettes and returned to smoking did so because they were worried about the health effects of vaping, according to a study published last year in the journal Nicotine & Tobacco Research.

The Portland State study fits right into this dynamic. It is, on the one hand factually true that vaning at an extremely high voltage will cause formaldehyde-releasing agents to develop.

But this conclusion is highly misleading. People don't vape at a high voltage because it causes a horrible taste - "a burning taste that occurs from overheating the liquid," wrote Konstantinos Farsalinos, a Greek scientist and vaping expert, in an email to me.

Farsalinos has done human studies of vaping and discovered that above a certain voltage - lower than the high voltage test on the Portland State study - people simply couldn't inhale; the taste was unbearable.

Indeed, the study actually conveys good news. When used at normal voltage, vaping does not produce formaldehyde! "Rather than scaring people about the dangers of vaping and alarming them to the 'fact' that vaping raises their cancer risk above that of smoking, we should instead be regulating the voltage and temperature conditions of electronic cigarettes so that the problem of formaldehyde contamination is completely avoided," wrote Michael Siegel, a professor of public health at Boston University, on his blog. But given the way the Portland State authors characterized their research, it's no surprise that headline writers took away a different message.

When I spoke to David Peyton, one of the study's authors, he insisted that the study had been mischaracterized. All it was meant to do, he said, was compare the levels of formaldehyde in e-cigarettes versus cigarettes. "It is exceedingly frustrating to me that we are being associated with saying that e-cigarettes are more dangerous than cigarettes," he added. "That is a fact not in evidence." Well, maybe.

When I read him the tweet from the New England Journal of Medicine - "Authors project higher cancer risk than smoking" - he sounded horrified. "I didn't see the tweet," he said. "I regret that. That is not my opinion." "There is a lot we don't vet know about e cigarettes," said Peyton toward the end of our conversation. He is right about that; e-cigarettes are still so new that they need to be studied carefully. And he and his co-authors are planning further studies. Perhaps the next time, they will produce something that doesn't serve mainly as a scare tactic to keep smokers away from e-cigarettes.

Snuba 10 D/:\Y

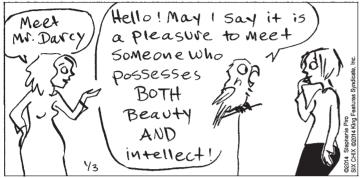
Mutts







6 Chix





Blondie







Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues







Zits







Conceptis Sudoku

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Difficulty Level ***								

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

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	4	6	1	5	3	9	8	2	7

ACROSS

- 1 Hotels 5 At __ for words; tongue-tied 10 Ignore rudely & deliberately
- 14 Money, slangily 15 __ bat an evelid; showed no surprise
- 16 Stockings 17 Past due 18 New Delhi's nation
- 19 Kiln 20 Frozen dessert 22 Poster
- 24 Debtor's note 25 Tiny bit 26 Cuddly-looking marsupial
- 29 Bashful 30 Bills & Braves 34 "Ticket to __"; Beatles song 35 Zodiac sign
- 36 Baggage porter 37 Obsolete 38 Aged 40 Cow's remark 41 Had to have

3 Memo

4 Germfree

7 Peculiar

10 Appalled

11 _ Scotia

13 South ___,

Indiana 21 Feathery scarf

23 Plaved a role

25 Yelled

26 Swedisl

27 Lubricated

29 __ aside;

reserve 31 High points

32 Native New

35 Youth 36 Congressman's

Zealander

title: abbr.

39 Big __; semi

38 Earn; deserve

28 Found a sum

12 Drug addict

8 Rudely curt

5 "Bye, Pierre!"

6 Fuzzy residue

9 No longer fresh

- 43 Money left for the waiter 44 Rescuer 45 Deadly reptile
- 46 Tibia's location 47 Spaghetti sauce herb 48 Stacked 50 Tavern
- 51 Spun around 54 Alike 58 "Shape out!' 59 Once
- 61 __ advantage of; exploit 62 Mixer speed 63 Capture 64 Very eager 65 Split __, hair
- problem 66 Goofed 67 Sunbathes

DOWN 1 Woes 2 Ark builder

Friday's Puzzle Solved

	Filiday's Puzzle Solved													
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Weird Science:

To unlock deflation puzzle, just mind your Ps and Vs

BRIAN GREENE © 2015 New York Times

Yep, it's for real. The law firm representing the NFL (Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison) has reached out Columbia University's department of physics to recruit an expert on "gas physics" to help determine, as has been reported, the "environmental impacts on inflated footballs."

This is one of those rare times when the jocks turn to the nerds, so fellow fans

of molecules and momentum - climb out of that gym locker you were stuffed into - this is our moment. Stand tall. And do the wave.

OK. Onward to the exciting world of gas physics. (Note to self: Save all gas physics jokes for when kids get home from school.) Here's what you need to know:

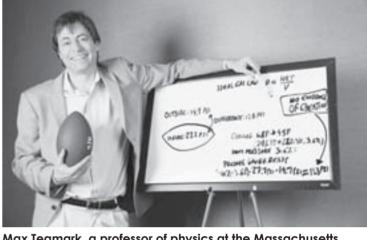
The pressure in a football filled with air (just like that in any container filled with a gas) comes from molecules of the air slamming into the inner walls of the football, pushing the ball's skin outward. It's kind of like a bunch of wild kids running around in a room - as they slam into the walls, they too push outward.

Now, just as more kids, crammed into a smaller room, running ever faster will result in a greater outward push - a greater pressure - so too will more air molecules crammed into a smaller volume, rushing around faster, yield a greater pressure.

Physicists make this precise with a formula - compatriots, time to stand taller still - that dates from the 1800s: PV = nRT. P stands for pressure; V for volume; n comes from the number of gas molecules; R is, well, trust me, you don't have to worry about it; but T, the last symbol, is key: It stands for temperature.

How did temperature get in on all this? Well, temperature is nothing but the average speed of the air molecules. So, picture it: the hotter the air, the faster the molecules and the more pressure they collectively exert as they careen into the inside of the football's skin. That's the role of the "T" in the formula.

yers come in. They want to talk to a physicist, I presume, to help determine if a drop



Max Tegmark, a professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, describes the Ideal Gas Law, a calculation he says exonerates the New England Patriots, in Austin, Texas. Tegmark concurs with a technical paper finding that environmental effects could account for most or all of the deflation of footballs in the AFC Conference Championship Julia Robinson/The New York Times)

in temperature - a slowing of the air molecules inside the football - can explain the low pressure that was

found in some of the balls used in the AFC championship game two weeks ago between the New England Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts. Or maybe they just want to increase their billable hours.

So, could a drop in temperature do the dirty deed? If you want to go full geek, read the fine print below, but the bottom line is that the little formula can explain a drop in pressure to nearly 11 pounds per square inch, while barely breaking a sweat. I've heard various numbers tossed around for the pressures of the offending footballs, some in this range, others a touch lower. More exact analyses - which I have little doubt will be forthcoming, resulting in erudite treatises and a handful of well-deserved tenure appointments - will require the nitty-gritty details: What was the temperature when the footballs were inflated? What pressure were they initially inflated to? How accurate are the pressure gauges that

were used? Without this information, all we can do is estimate the pressure drop. But it looks to me that mother nature at least provides a reasonable doubt. So, based on what I know now, your honor, I can't convict. But a word to the wise. All current and would-be ball deflators: You may want to brush up on Physics 1.

Now, I'm waiting for the day that the NFL needs some string theory calculations.

The fine print: Assume the footballs were inflated indoors at a temperature of, say, 72 degrees Fahrenheit and the halftime temperature on the field was about 48 degrees. That's a drop of roughly 5 percent (careful, convert to Kelvin first). The volume of a football hardly changes, so its pressure would decrease by the same 5 percent. Bear in mind that the quoted pressure of a football refers to pressure above that of everyday air pressure (about 14.7 pounds per square inch), so if a given ball were initially pumped to 12.5 psi (the minimum allowed by NFL regulations), then inside the ball we'd have 27.2 psi total.

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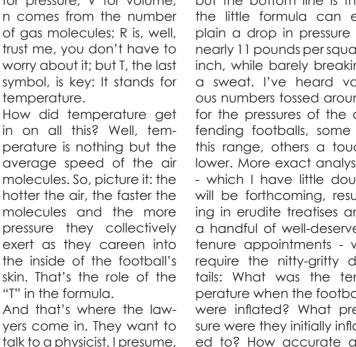
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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT

Suge Knight's bail denied on flight risk

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight, founder of one of the genre's leading labels, had his \$2 million bail revoked in Los Angeles after his arrest in running down and killing a man. Los Angeles County sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida says detectives asked a bail commissioner Monday to keep the Death Row Records founder behind bars because he is a possible flight risk. Authorities also cited Knight's history of violent crimes and the possibility he would intimidate witnesses. Police allege Knight, who started the music label that helped solidify West Coast rap, killed a man and injured another by hitting them with his pickup truck Thursday. Attorney James Blatt says Knight accidentally ran over the men. Knight is scheduled to appear in court in Compton Tuesday.

Rep: Bobbi Kristina fighting for her life

NEW YORK (AP) — Bobbi Kristina Brown is fighting for her life, according to a statement from the Houston family Monday. Police said the 21-year-old daughter of Whitney Houston and R&B singer Bobby Brown was taken to a hospital Saturday after she was found face down and unresponsive in a bathtub in a suburban Atlanta townhome. The statement said that Brown is surrounded by immediate family and that the family was requesting privacy. No more details were provided. "We are asking you to honor our request for privacy during this difficult time," the statement read. "Thank you for your prayers, well wishes, and we greatly appreciate your continued support. "Whitney Houston was found dead in a hotel bathtub in 2012.

Court nixes James Brown bio hearing

AIKEN, South Carolina (AP) — The South Carolina Supreme Court has canceled a lower court's hearing in which a freelance journalist covering the fight over the estate of soul singer James Brown might have been forced to reveal her sources. The justices nixed the Circuit Court hearing less than 30 minutes before it was set to start Monday. They ruled that only the Supreme Court can decide whether the request that reporter Sue Summer give up her cellphone and notes is legal. An attorney for Brown's widow wants to know who sent Summer the widow's diary that has been under seal. Summer was anonymously sent the diary last week and published it on her Facebook page. The fight over James Brown's estate is in its ninth year as a judge tries to arrange mediation.

Zuckerberg makes 3rd book club pick

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Zuckerberg's new book club pick is a best-seller about a sociologist's time in a Chicago housing project and his unexpected friendship with a gang leader. The Facebook CEO posted on his page Monday that he had selected Sudhir Venkatesh's "Gang Leader for a Day," first published in 2007. Zuckerberg has vowed to read a book every other week in 2015, continuing his tradition of New Year's resolutions. Although Zuckerberg has millions of Facebook followers, response to his first two picks has been relatively modest. Sales immediately following his previous choice, Stephen Pinker's "The Better Angels of Our Nature," were virtually unchanged from the week before, according to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the print market. □

Winfrey, DuVernay team up for new series

LYNN ELBER
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP)

Oprah Winfrey and the director of the Oscar-nominated movie "Selma" are creating a drama series for Winfrey's TV channel.

The project from Winfrey and filmmaker Ava DuVernay is inspired by the Natalie Baszile novel "Queen Sugar," the OWN channel said Monday.

Winfrey will serve as executive producer and will play a recurring role, the network said. DuVernay will write, direct and executive

produce the drama, her first TV series.

Former talk show queen Winfrey increased her presence on OWN's non-scripted programs (including "Oprah Presents: Master Class") to help steady the channel after its rocky start. The new drama will mark her acting debut on OWN after several big-screen projects and network TV movies.

Winfrey's recent movies include "Lee Daniels' The Butler" and DuVernay's film about the 1965 voting rights campaign led by Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr.

"Selma," which earned
DuVernay a best-director
nod at last month's Golden Globe awards, is nominated for best picture and
best song at the Feb. 22
Academy Awards.

Production on Winfrey and DuVernay's drama series is scheduled to begin later this year, OWN said. The contemporary series will follow a woman who leaves her affluent Los Angeles life to move with her teenage daughter to an inherited sugar came farm in the South.



Ava DuVernay, director of "Selma," attends the National Board of Review awards gala in New York. DuVernay and Oprah Winfrey are creating a drama series for Winfrey's TV channel. The project is inspired by the Natalie Baszile novel "Queen Sugar," the OWN channel said Monday, Feb. 2. (Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)

Common:

Grammy love welcome after Oscar nod

MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Common says despite winning a Golden Globe and earning an Oscar nomination, he's still looking forward to the upcoming Grammy Awards.

The rap star is nominated for two honors Sunday, including best rap album for his 10th effort, "Nobody's Smiling."

"I am very grateful to get Grammy nominations," he said in a recent interview. "It's incredible for me. And that album is important." Common will perform his song "Glory," from the film "Selma," with John Legend at the Grammys. The song is nominated for best original song at the Feb. 22 Academy Awards. He also appeared in the film.

He says the release of "Selma" comes at a perfect time, adding that he's thrilled to see rappers take a stance against injustice in the wake of the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

"Not just through songs, but you see artists starting to be more active in general. You hear about artists contributing finances or showing up ... artists are showing they care," he said. "And it's important because we have this platform. I applaud that. I am happy the hip-hop culture has been about that."

Common is also nominated for best rap/sung collaboration for "Blak Majik" with R&B singer Jhene Aiko. He is already the owner of two Grammy Awards: best rap performance by a duo or group for "Southside" with Kanye West and best R&B song for "Love of My Life (An Ode to Hip Hop)" with Erykah Badu.

The 57th annual Grammy Awards will air live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on CBS.



Perry's Super Bowl show a technicolor treat

MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

Katy Perry roared, possibly because there was a jungle behind her.

Perry's Super Bowl halftime show Sunday, with its colorful visual effects, was a success mainly because of others — including the energetic Missy Elliott.

strong over what sounded like a pre-recorded track. The stage turned to a futuristic vibe for the Southelectro-flavored "Dark Horse" and into a beach complete with dancing sharks and surfboards and bobbing beach balls for "Teenage Dream" and "California

formance turned into "The Missy Elliott Show" when the reclusive rapper hit the stage as the beginning beat of "Get Ur Freak On" blasted. A decade later, the song still sounded like a hit as Elliott rapped like a veteran.

Perry joined Elliott, attempting to dance be-

ately, fireworks burst. That wasn't the only fiery moment: Before the game began, "Frozen" star Idina Menzel belted out an outstanding live rendition of the national anthem ahead of the big game in Phoenix.

After she sang the last note, she yelled in excitement: "Yes!"

al "Firework" as, appropri-

"I didn't want to rush," Menzel said in an interview after the performance. "I wanted to take in the moment and connect to the song that I was singing, not get swept away by all the grandiosity and excitement, and connect. And sing from my heart." The performance comes a month after the Tonywinning star was criticized for her performance of "Let It Go" during "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve." John Legend, in typical form, brought the soul when he sang "America the Beautiful." He hit all the right notes while playing piano before the Seattle Seahawks took on the New England Patriots. Kravitz said he was grateful for Perry's call to join her onstage.

"This wasn't my thing. She asked me to come and perform with her and I said, 'Yes' and it ended up being a really great experience," he said in an interview.



Singer Katy Perry performs during halftime of NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game between the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

Did Perry even break a sweat?

The pop star kicked off the performance atop a robotic tiger, her outfit one of four — covered in a flame design some likened to Will Ferrell's skater outfit in "Blades of Glory." She seemed ready to take the big stage, her voice

spectacle rather than her own talent. That was evident when Lenny Kravitz joined her for a rock-filled version of "I Kissed a Girl," in which he was the highlight, shining on the guitar. But the 12-minute perlike a student lost in cho-

Perry ended her set in a shimmery gown, as she rose in the air and slowed it down for the inspiration-

Malcolm Butler's gamesaving interception in the last minute really set the Twitter engines revving, with an estimated 395,000 tweets per minute, with 379,000 tweets per minute coming when the game actually ended, Twitter

Meanwhile, the digital video recorder maker TiVo reported that the top commercial played back by its users was Budweiser's "lost dog" spot. The second most played-back was the public service announcement about domestic violence involving a woman's 911 call for help.□



Britney Spears at the Super Bowl XLIX red carpet on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015 in Glendale, Ariz.

(Omar Vega/AP)

Stars prominent both on, off field at Super Bowl 49

A. McCARTNEY **Associated Press**

GLENDALE, Arizona (AP) — Stars converged on the Super Bowl both on and off the field on Sunday, with Britney Spears and Mark Wahlberg among the celebrities who watched the game and an elaborate halftime show by Katy Perry. Spears didn't announce her preferred team, and neither did Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who said she just wanted to enjoy a good game.

Wahlberg, a Boston native, was pulling for a victory by the New England Patriots — and an invite to their after-party.

Actors Chris Evans, a Patriots fan, and Seattle Seahawks fan Chris Pratt continued their rivalry in the stands; each wore their respective team's gear in a picture posted online by Pratt's wife, Anna Faris.

Mariska Hargitay, comedians Kevin Hart and Will Ferrell and rapper Kanye West and his wife Kim Kardashian were among other stars at the game.

The game capped several days of parties and events hosted by major stars, including Oscar winner Jamie Foxx, Drake and Wahl-

West performed alongside Rihanna at a party thrown by DirecTV on Saturday night where guests included Kardashian, John Legend and his wife Chrissy Teigen.

Gurls." It came off like a music video.

Perry relied too much on

side her but coming off reography class. Elliott went on to the steal the thunder with performances of "Work It" and "Lose

Record ratings, social media reach for Super Bowl

DAVID BAUDER AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New England's thrilling win over Seattle scored the highestever overnight television ratings for a Super Bowl and also set conversation milestones for Twitter and Facebook.

The Nielsen company said Monday the game had a largest media markets, up 4 percent over last year's game. That means nearly half of the homes in those 56 metropolitan areas were watching the game. An estimated 114.4 million people watched New England's thrilling win over

Seattle, making it the fifth time in six years that a Super Bowl game has set a record as the most-watched event in U.S. television his-

The Nielsen company said the game's viewership exceeded the record of 112.2 million set last year, when Seattle beat Denver. Facebook said an estimat-49.7 rating in the nation's ed 65 million people conversed about the game on the social media site, more than any other Super Bowl and second only to two World Cup games last year for most talked-about events. There were some 265 million individual posts. comments or "likes," Face-

book said.

The moment drawing the most Facebook comments was just after the Patriots sealed the 28-24 victory, with the second being when Katy Perry soared through stadium for her "Firework" finale to the Super Bowl halftime show.

Twitter estimated there were 28.4 million tweets posted between the kickoff and 30 minutes after the game's conclusion, surpassing last year's game to be the most tweetedabout Super Bowl ever. It was second only to the 35.6 million tweets sent about last year's World Cup semifinal between Brazil and

Germany.

said.

PIAGET

Perfection in Life



